

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #: CS/HB 7125 PCB JDC 19-02 Public Safety
SPONSOR(S): Appropriations Committee and Judiciary Committee, Renner and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Judiciary Committee	17 Y, 0 N	Hall	Poche
1) Appropriations Committee	26 Y, 0 N, As CS	Gusky	Pridgeon
FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved			
110	Y's 0	N's	

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/HB 7125 passed the House on April 29, 2019. The bill was amended in the Senate on May 2, 2019, and returned to the House. The House concurred in the Senate amendment and subsequently passed the bill as amended on May 3, 2019.

- The bill makes comprehensive changes to Florida law which impact public safety. Specifically, the bill:
- Prohibits disclosure of specified Crime Stoppers information and modifies use of grant funds;
 - Expands inmate reentry programming; reduces barriers to occupational licensing and educational opportunities; and expands sealing eligibility for specified criminal history records;
 - Reforms current probation practices to more proportionally address violations;
 - Raises felony thresholds for specified offenses, including grand theft and retail theft, to \$750;
 - Authorizes the creation of community courts and expands eligibility for pretrial drug court;
 - Reforms driver license suspensions and revocations;
 - Repeals mandatory direct file for juveniles, revises youthful offender sentencing eligibility, and updates juvenile civil citation provisions to reflect current practices;
 - Raises hydrocodone trafficking thresholds to align with similar controlled substances;
 - Revises offenses related to correctional and county detention facilities and clarifies an inmate released from a county detention facility may qualify as a prison releasee reoffender;
 - Expands and revises criminal justice data transparency elements and requires the procurement of a uniform arrest affidavit and other specified uniform crosswalk tables;
 - Revises elements and penalties for cybercrimes, contracting fraud, escape, retail theft, possessing a counterfeit instrument, driving while license suspended or revoked, and specified regulatory crimes;
 - Authorizes specified law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm off-duty in any state;
 - Extends specified deadlines and increases an award for crime victim compensation claims;
 - Creates a task force to review and make recommendations on felony sentencing and ranking; and
 - Makes other varied reforms to increase public safety.

The bill will have a fiscal impact on state and local governments.

The bill was approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019, ch. 2019-167, L.O.F., and will become effective on October 1, 2019.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Crime Stoppers Programs

Background

Crime Stoppers organizations are nonprofit entities that partner with law enforcement and the community to fight crime.¹ Crime Stoppers organizations receive information about alleged criminal activity through a designated hotline or through electronic means and then forward the information to appropriate law enforcement agencies.² Such organizations often create incentives to report crimes by providing monetary rewards and by allowing the person reporting the crime to remain anonymous.³

In Florida, Crime Stoppers refers to members of the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers, Inc.⁴ There are 27 Crime Stoppers organizations serving 61 of Florida's 67 counties.⁵

Crime Stoppers Funding and Use of Grants

Funds collected in the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund (Fund),⁶ housed within the Department of Legal Affairs, are annually awarded as grants to counties with an official Crime Stoppers organization. These grants are awarded based on court costs deposited into the Fund from that county's judicial circuit.⁷ An eligible program must complete and submit a performance-based grant proposal outlining its annual operational plan.⁸ Grant funds may be used to reward a provider of a tip that leads to an arrest, arrest warrant, or recovery of stolen property or drugs. The department is required to award grants to eligible counties as equitably as possible based on amounts collected in each county.⁹

In FY 2017-2018, the Fund received approximately \$3.8 million in funds and disbursed \$3.3 million. The Fund had a balance of over \$9 million as of June 30, 2018, of which \$4,282,258 is encumbered through FY 2018-2019.¹⁰

Privileged Communication

The Florida Evidence Code (Code) specifies what types of evidence and testimony are admissible in court.¹¹ The Code makes certain communications privileged, meaning their disclosure generally cannot be compelled, even in legal proceedings. Examples of generally privileged communications include communications between a lawyer and client,¹² between a husband and wife,¹³ and between a psychotherapist and a patient.¹⁴

¹ See Florida Association of Crime Stoppers, <https://www.facsflorida.org> (last visited May 10, 2019).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ S. 16.555(1)(c), F.S.

⁵ Office of Attorney General/Department of Legal Affairs, *Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs Annual Report 2017-2018*, p. 11.

⁶ In 1991, the Legislature created s. 16.555, F.S., requiring the Department of Legal Affairs to establish a Crime Stoppers Trust Fund.

⁷ S. 938.06, F.S., imposes a \$20 court cost to be deposited into the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund on persons convicted of any criminal offense.

⁸ Florida Association of Crime Stoppers, *Funding*, <https://www.facsflorida.org/who-we-are/62-2/> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ OAG/DLA, *supra* note 5, at 1.

¹¹ Ch. 90, F.S.

¹² S. 90.502, F.S.

¹³ S. 90.504, F.S.

¹⁴ S. 90.503, F.S.

Typically, such communication only loses its privileged status if the person who made the original disclosure of such information waives the privilege, thus subjecting the communication to general rules of evidence. A person is deemed to have waived the privilege if he or she voluntarily discloses or makes the communication when he or she does not have a reasonable expectation of privacy, or consents to the disclosure of any significant part of the communication.¹⁵

Several other states classify communications with a Crime Stoppers organization as privileged, as is the identity of the tipster and any information or tangible things collected from tipsters.¹⁶ At least six states penalize the prohibited disclosure of such protected information; however, the criminal penalty is generally a misdemeanor, rather than a felony.¹⁷

Effect of the Bill – Crime Stoppers Programs

Use of Crime Stoppers Funding (Effective July 1, 2019)

CS/HB 7125 allows up to 50 percent of unencumbered funds returned to the Fund from a previous grant year be reallocated to other judicial circuits for special crime stoppers initiatives or other programs of the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers, as determined by the Association and Department of Legal Affairs.

The bill lists out and expands the use of Crime Stoppers grant funds, providing that a county awarded a Crime Stoppers grant under s. 16.555, F.S., may use such funds to pay rewards for tips that result in:

- An arrest;
- Recovery of stolen property, illegal narcotics, the body of a homicide victim, an illegal firearm, or an illegal weapon on a K-12 school campus;
- Prevention of a terrorist act; or
- Solving and closing a homicide or other violent felony offense unsolved for at least one year after being reported to a law enforcement agency, and that has no viable and unexplored investigatory leads.

Crime Stoppers Privileged Communication

The bill adds communication between a person and a Crime Stoppers organization as privileged under the Florida Evidence Code.

The bill defines:

- "Crime stoppers organization" as a private, not-for-profit organization that collects and expends donations for rewards to persons who report to the organization information concerning criminal activity and forwards that information to appropriate law enforcement agencies.
- "Privileged communication" as the act of providing information to a crime stoppers organization for the purpose of reporting alleged criminal activity.
- "Protected information" as the identity of a person who engages in privileged communication with a Crime Stoppers program and any records, recordings, oral or written statements, papers, documents, or other tangible things provided to or collected by:

¹⁵ S. 90.507, F.S.

¹⁶ These states include: Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. See ARK. CODE § 16-90-1005; COLO. REV. STAT. § 16-5.7-104; CONN. GEN. STAT. § 29-1d; KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 431.580; LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 15:477.1; MICH. COMP. LAWS § 600.2157B; MISS. CODE ANN. § 45-39-7; N.M. STAT. § 29-12A-4; OKLA. STAT. tit. 12, § 2510.1; and TEX. CODE ANN. § 414.008.

¹⁷ Six states that assign criminal penalties are Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Texas. The exception to the offense being classified as a misdemeanor is in Texas where the offense is a felony if the person divulged the information for the purposes of obtaining a monetary benefit. See ARK CODE § 16-90-1006; COLO. REV. STAT. § 16-15.7-104; KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 431.585; MISS. CODE ANN. § 29-12A-5; and TEX. CODE ANN. § 414.009.

- A crime stoppers organization,
- A law enforcement crime stoppers coordinator or his or her staff, or
- A law enforcement agency in connection with such privileged communication.

Except pursuant to criminal discovery, a person who discloses privileged communication or protected information, or any information concerning privileged communication or protected information, commits a third degree felony.¹⁸ This does not apply to:

- The person who provides the privileged communication or protected information.
- A law enforcement officer, employee of a law enforcement agency, or employee of the Department of Legal Affairs when acting within the scope of his or her official duties.

Theft Offenses

Background

Property Theft

A person commits theft if he or she knowingly obtains or uses, or endeavors to obtain or use, the property of another with intent to, either temporarily or permanently:

- Deprive the other person of a right to the property or a benefit from the property;¹⁹ or
- Appropriate the property to his or her own use or to the use of any person not entitled to the use of the property.²⁰

Section 812.014, F.S., defines theft offenses and generally categorizes offense levels based on the value of the property stolen. Whether a theft is a misdemeanor or a felony may also depend on the offender's prior history of theft convictions or the type of property stolen.²¹ Offense levels for theft crimes based on property value thresholds are classified as follows:

	Property Value	Offense Level
Grand Theft	≥ \$100,000	First Degree Felony ²²
	≥ \$20,000, but < \$100,000	Second Degree Felony ²³
	≥ \$10,000, but < \$20,000	Third Degree Felony ²⁴
	≥ \$5,000, but < \$10,000	Third Degree Felony
	≥ \$300, but < \$5,000	Third Degree Felony
	≥ \$100, but < \$300 if taken from a dwelling or unenclosed curtilage ²⁵ of a dwelling	Third Degree Felony
Petit Theft	≥ \$100, but < \$300	First Degree Misdemeanor ²⁶
	< \$100	Second Degree Misdemeanor ²⁷

¹⁸ Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S., provide a third degree felony is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

¹⁹ S. 812.014(1)(a), F.S.

²⁰ S. 812.014(1)(b), F.S.

²¹ For example, theft of a will, codicil, or other testamentary instrument; a firearm; a motor vehicle, unless otherwise specified; and a fire extinguisher is a third degree felony regardless of the actual monetary value of the stolen property. S. 812.014(2)(c), F.S.

²² A first degree felony is punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Ss. 775.082(3)(b)1 and 775.083(1)(b), F.S.

²³ A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Ss. 775.082(3)(d) and 775.083(1)(b), F.S.

²⁴ A third degree felony is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. Ss. 775.082(3)(e) and 775.083(1)(c), F.S.

²⁵ "Unenclosed curtilage of a dwelling" means the unenclosed land or grounds, or any outbuildings, directly and intimately adjacent to and connected with the dwelling and necessary, convenient, and habitually used in connection with that dwelling. S. 810.09(1)(b), F.S.

²⁶ A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in county jail and a \$1,000 fine. Ss. 775.082(4)(a) and 775.083(1)(d), F.S.

²⁷ A second degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in county jail and a \$500 fine. Ss. 775.082(4)(b) and 775.083(1)(e), F.S.

Additionally, the penalty for petit theft increases if a person has one or more prior theft convictions. Petit theft committed by a person with a previous theft conviction is a first degree misdemeanor.²⁸ Petit theft committed by a person with two or more previous theft convictions is a third degree felony.²⁹

Florida last increased the minimum threshold amount for third degree felony grand theft in 1986.³⁰ Florida added the third degree felony grand theft provisions related to property taken from a dwelling or its unenclosed curtilage in 1996.³¹ The petit theft threshold amounts were last amended in 1996.³²

Retail Theft

A person commits retail theft when he or she does any of the following with the intent to deprive a merchant of the possession, use, benefit, or full retail value of property:

- Takes possession of, or carries away, merchandise, property, money or negotiable documents;
- Alters or removes a label, universal product code, or price tag;
- Transfers merchandise from one container to another; or
- Removes a shopping cart, with intent to deprive the merchant of possession, use, benefit, or full retail value.³³

Retail theft is a third degree felony if the property stolen is valued at \$300 or more and the offender:

- Individually, or with other persons, coordinates the activities of other individuals in committing the offense, in which case the amount of each individual theft is aggregated to determine the value of the property stolen;
- Commits theft from more than one location within a 48-hour period, in which case the amount of each individual theft is aggregated to determine the value of the property stolen;
- Acts in concert with other individuals within one or more establishments to distract the merchant, merchant's employee, or law enforcement officer in order to carry out the offense, or acts in other ways to coordinate efforts to carry out the offense; or
- Commits the offense by purchasing merchandise in a package or box that contains merchandise other than, or in addition to, that purported to be contained in the package or box.

Retail theft is a second degree felony when a person:

- Has previously been convicted of third degree felony retail theft; or
- Individually, or in concert with other persons, coordinates the activities of other persons in committing retail theft of \$3,000 or more of stolen property.³⁴

Florida established the current threshold amounts for third degree felony retail theft in 2001.³⁵

Prison and Probation Admissions

In FY 2017-2018, the Department of Corrections (DOC) admitted 1,591 inmates to prison for grand theft offenses charged under s. 812.014, F.S., and 33 inmates for retail theft offenses charged under s. 812.015, F.S.³⁶ During the same period, DOC admitted 9,511 offenders to probation for grand theft

²⁸ S. 812.014(3)(b), F.S.

²⁹ S. 812.014(3)(c), F.S.

³⁰ Ch. 86-161, Laws of Fla.

³¹ Ch. 96-388, Laws of Fla.

³² *Id.*

³³ S. 812.015(1)(d), F.S.

³⁴ S. 812.015(9), F.S.

³⁵ Ch. 2001-115, Laws of Fla.

³⁶ Email from Jared Torres, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Corrections, Fwd: Information Request (Feb. 27, 2019).

offenses charged under s. 812.014, F.S., and 195 offenders for retail theft offenses charged under s. 812.015, F.S.³⁷

Theft Threshold Amounts in Other States

Since 2000, at least 39 states have increased the threshold dollar amounts for felony theft crimes.³⁸ Nine states increased the threshold dollar amounts twice during this time period.³⁹

Year of Change	State	Previous Threshold	Enacted Threshold
2001	Oklahoma	\$50	\$500
2002	Missouri	\$150	\$500
2003	Alabama	\$250	\$500
	Mississippi	\$250	\$500
2004	Kansas	\$500	\$1,000
	Wyoming	\$500	\$1,000
2005	South Dakota	\$500	\$1,000
2006	Arizona	\$250	\$1,000
	New Mexico	\$250	\$500
	Vermont	\$500	\$900
2007	Colorado	\$500	\$1,000
	Minnesota	\$500	\$1,000
2009	Connecticut	\$1,000	\$2,000
	Delaware	\$1,000	\$1,500
	Kentucky	\$300	\$500
	Louisiana	\$300	\$500
	Maryland	\$500	\$1,000
	Montana	\$1,000	\$1,500
	Oregon	\$750	\$1,000
	Washington	\$250	\$750
2010	California	\$400	\$950
	Illinois	\$300	\$500
	New Hampshire	\$500	\$1,000
	South Carolina	\$1,000	\$2,000
	Utah	\$1,000	\$1,500
2011	Arkansas	\$500	\$1,000
	Nevada	\$250	\$650
	Ohio	\$500	\$1,000
2012	Georgia	\$500	\$1,500
	Rhode Island	\$500	\$1,500
2013	Colorado	\$1,000	\$2,000
	Indiana	Any amount	\$750
	North Dakota	\$500	\$1,000
2014	Alaska	\$500	\$750
	Louisiana	\$500	\$750
	Mississippi	\$500	\$1,000

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Pew Charitable Trusts, *States Can Safely Raise Their Felony Theft Thresholds, Research Shows* (May 22, 2018), <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/05/22/states-can-safely-raise-their-felony-theft-thresholds-research-shows> (last visited May 10, 2019).

³⁹ *Id.*

2015	Alabama	\$500	\$1,500
	Nebraska	\$500	\$1,500
	Texas	\$1,500	\$2,500
2016	Alaska	\$750	\$1,000
	Hawaii	\$300	\$750
	Kansas	\$1,000	\$1,500
	Maryland	\$1,000	\$1,500
	Oklahoma	\$500	\$1,000
	Tennessee	\$500	\$1,000
2017	Massachusetts	\$250	\$1,200
2018	Virginia	\$200	\$500

The majority of states (36) and the District of Columbia set a \$1,000-or-greater property value threshold for felony theft.⁴⁰ Twelve states have thresholds between \$500 and \$950, and two states, including Florida, have thresholds below \$500.⁴¹

Opponents argue that increasing the threshold will incentivize offenders to steal items of greater value.⁴² An examination of 23 states that changed felony theft thresholds between 2001 and 2011 revealed:

- Raising the felony theft threshold had no impact on the states' overall property crime or larceny rates;
- States that increased thresholds reported roughly the same average decrease in crime as the 27 states that did not; and
- The amount of a state's felony theft threshold did not correlate with the state's property crime and larceny rates.⁴³

Theft of State Funds

A person commits theft of state funds when he or she fails to remit taxes with the intent to unlawfully deprive or defraud the state of its money or the use or benefit thereof.⁴⁴ If the value of the stolen revenue is less than \$300, the offense is a second degree misdemeanor.⁴⁵ If the value of the stolen revenue is \$300 or more, but less than \$20,000, the offense is a third degree felony.⁴⁶

Obtaining Food or Lodging with Intent to Defraud

A person who obtains food, lodging, or other accommodations at any public food service establishment, or at any transient establishment, with intent to defraud, commits a second degree misdemeanor if the value of the goods obtained is less than \$300,⁴⁷ and a third degree felony if the value of the goods is \$1,000 or more.⁴⁸

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² Lauren Krisai, *Stuck in the 80s: Time for Reform of Florida's Felony Theft Threshold*, The Journal of the James Madison Institute (Spring 2017), http://reason.org/files/florida_theft_threshold_stuck_in_1980s.pdf (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ S. 212.15(2), F.S.

⁴⁵ S. 225.15(2)(a), F.S.

⁴⁶ S. 225.15(2)(b), F.S.

⁴⁷ S. 509.151, F.S.

⁴⁸ *Id.*

Removing Property Upon Which a Lien Has Accrued

When a person rents a room or apartment in a hotel, apartment house, roominghouse, boardinghouse, or tenement house, a lien in favor of the operator of the establishment exists upon all personal property brought into or placed in the establishment by the renter, roommates, boarders, and guests.⁴⁹ The lien continues until the rent due is paid in full.⁵⁰

A person who removes property upon which such a lien has accrued commits a criminal offense if the person does so without making full payment of the amount owed and without the written consent of the person operating the establishment. The offense is a second degree misdemeanor if the value of the property removed is \$50 or less,⁵¹ and a third degree felony if the value of the property removed is greater than \$50.⁵²

Sale of Used Motor Vehicle Goods as New

In a transaction for which any charges will be paid from the proceeds of a motor vehicle insurance policy, and in which the purchase price of the goods exceeds \$100, it is unlawful for the seller of motor vehicle goods to knowingly misrepresent orally, in writing, or by failure to speak that the goods are new or original when they are used, repossessed, or have been used for sales demonstration.⁵³ A violation is a third degree felony.⁵⁴

Effect of the Bill - Theft Offenses

Property Theft

CS/HB 7125 increases the threshold amounts for the following theft offenses:

Offense	Current Threshold	New Threshold
First degree petit theft	≥ \$100, but < \$300	≥ \$100, but < \$750 ⁵⁵
Third degree grand theft	≥ \$300, but < \$20,000	≥ \$750, but < \$20,000 ⁵⁶
Third degree grand theft of property from a dwelling or its enclosed curtilage	≥ \$100, but < \$300	≥ \$100, but < \$750 ⁵⁷

The bill also specifies that for theft of a fire extinguisher to qualify as a third degree felony regardless of the actual value of the item, it must be installed in a building for the purpose of fire prevention or control at the time of the taking. The bill specifically excludes theft of a fire extinguisher from the inventory at a point-of-sale business as a third degree felony; the theft offense level will be determined by the actual value of the property.

⁴⁹ S. 713.68, F.S.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ S. 713.69, F.S.

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ S. 817.413(1), F.S.

⁵⁴ S. 817.413(2), F.S.

⁵⁵ According to the CPI Inflation Calculator of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$100 in 1996 has the same buying power as \$163.03 in 2019 dollars and \$300 in 1996 has the same buying power as \$489.08 in 2019 dollars. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *CPI Inflation Calculator*, <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁶ According to the CPI Inflation Calculator of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$300 in 1986 has the same buying power as \$688.99 in 2019 dollars. *Id.*

⁵⁷ *Id.*

Retail Theft

The bill increases the threshold amount for third degree felony retail theft from \$300 or more to \$750 or more. The bill also increases the period from 48 hours to 30 days for which the value of property taken during multiple thefts may be aggregated to determine the offense level.

The bill criminalizes conspiring to commit retail theft with the intent to sell the stolen property for monetary gain, when the offender who commits the theft subsequently places the stolen property in the control of another person in exchange for consideration. The new offense also has a 30-day aggregation period under which the any property taken or placed within such period can be aggregated to determine the offense level of the crime.

The bill also amends the second degree felony offense for retail theft, specifically that the 30 day aggregation period applies to determine whether the value of property taken over a series of retail thefts exceeds \$3,000 required to qualify for the enhanced penalty. The new crime of conspiring to commit retail theft to subsequently place the stolen property in the control of another person also qualifies as a second degree felony if the value of the property taken, aggregated over 30 days, exceeds \$3,000. If a person commits retail theft in more than one judicial circuit, any theft committed over a 30-day period may be aggregated to determine the value of the stolen property, and the Statewide Prosecutor must prosecute the case.

Threshold Study

The bill requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to perform a study every five years to determine the appropriateness of theft and retail theft offense thresholds. The study must include the crime trends related to theft offenses, the threshold amounts in other states, the fiscal impact of any threshold modification, and the effect of economic factors, such as inflation. If the study finds Florida's threshold amounts are inconsistent with current trends, OPPAGA must include options for amending the thresholds. OPPAGA must consult with the Office of Economic and Demographic Research and other interested entities and submit a report to the Governor and legislature by September 1 of every fifth year.

Other Theft Offenses

The bill increases threshold amounts for other theft offenses as follows:

Offense	Offense Level	Current Threshold	New Threshold
Theft of State Funds	Second Degree Misdemeanor	< \$300	< \$1,000
	Third Degree Felony	≥ \$300	≥ \$1,000
Obtaining Food or Lodging with Intent to Defraud	Second Degree Misdemeanor	< \$300	< \$1,000
	Third Degree Felony	≥ \$300	≥ \$1,000
Removal of Property Upon Which a Lien Has Accrued	Second Degree Misdemeanor	≤ \$50	< \$1,000
	Third Degree Felony	> \$50	≥ \$1,000
Sale of Used Motor Vehicle Goods as New	First Degree Misdemeanor	None	< \$1,000
	Third Degree Felony	> \$100	≥ \$1,000

Driver Licenses

Background

Florida requires a person to hold a driver license⁵⁸ or be exempt from licensure to operate a motor vehicle on state roadways.⁵⁹ Exemptions to the licensure include nonresidents who possess a valid driver license issued by their home states, federal government employees operating a government vehicle for official business, and people operating a road machine,⁶⁰ tractor, or golf cart.⁶¹ Both licensed drivers and exempt individuals have a driving privilege in Florida.⁶²

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) can revoke or suspend a driver license or driving privilege for several driving-related and non-driving-related reasons. Revocation means a termination of the privilege to drive,⁶³ while suspension means the temporary withdrawal of the privilege to drive.⁶⁴ Both revocations and suspensions can be indefinite or for a defined period of time, but only revocations in certain circumstances can be permanent.⁶⁵ The base fee for driver license reinstatement after revocation is \$75; the fee for reinstatement after suspension is \$45.⁶⁶ As both revocations and suspensions functionally prohibit a person from driving, the terms are often used interchangeably in statute.

Driving-related bases for driver license or driving privilege suspension or revocation include:

- A fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer conviction;⁶⁷
- Certain noncriminal traffic infractions, such as those causing death or serious bodily injury;⁶⁸
- Driving under the influence (DUI);⁶⁹
- Habitual traffic offender⁷⁰ classification;⁷¹
- Refusal to submit to a lawful breath, blood, or urine test in a DUI investigation;⁷²
- Accumulation of points⁷³ on a driving record;⁷⁴ and
- Incompetency to drive a motor vehicle.⁷⁵

Non-driving-related bases for driver license or driving privilege suspension or revocation include:

- Failure to comply with a civil penalty, traffic court directive, or criminal financial obligation;⁷⁶
- Support delinquency;⁷⁷
- Truancy;⁷⁸

⁵⁸ Driver license means a certificate that, subject to all other requirements of law, authorizes an individual to drive a motor vehicle. S. 322.01(17), F.S.

⁵⁹ S. 322.03(1), F.S.

⁶⁰ Road machines are road construction equipment. *Marrero v. State*, 921 So. 2d 748, 750 (Fla. 5th DCA 2006).

⁶¹ S. 322.04, F.S.

⁶² *State v. Miller*, 227 So. 3d 562, 564 (Fla. 2017) (“the Legislature’s use of ‘driving privilege’ refers to all individuals who may *lawfully* operate vehicles on Florida’s roads, even if they do not possess a Florida driver license”).

⁶³ S. 322.01(36), F.S.

⁶⁴ S. 322.01(40), F.S.

⁶⁵ Ss. 322.26(1)(a) and 322.26(2), F.S.

⁶⁶ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Fees*, <https://www.flhsmv.gov/fees/> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁶⁷ S. 316.1935(5), F.S.

⁶⁸ S. 318.14, F.S.

⁶⁹ Ss. 322.26, 322.271, and 322.28, F.S.

⁷⁰ A person is designated a habitual traffic offender after accumulating three or more enumerated traffic convictions or 15 or more other moving violation convictions within a five year period. S. 322.264, F.S.

⁷¹ S. 322.27(5)(a), F.S.

⁷² S. 322.2615(1)(b), F.S.

⁷³ There is an established point system for evaluating traffic violations to determine a person’s continuing qualification to operate a motor vehicle. S. 322.27(3), F.S.

⁷⁴ S. 322.27(3), F.S.

⁷⁵ S. 322.27(1)(c), F.S.

⁷⁶ Ss. 318.15 and 322.245, F.S.

⁷⁷ S. 322.058, F.S.

- Adjudication of guilt for misdemeanor theft;⁷⁹
- Graffiti by a minor;⁸⁰ and
- A drug conviction.⁸¹

The penalties for driving while license suspended or revoked (DWLSR) range from a moving traffic violation⁸² to a third degree felony.⁸³ Generally, a person can be charged with a felony for DWLSR if:

- He or she knows⁸⁴ of the suspension or revocation and has at least two prior convictions for DWLSR;⁸⁵
- He or she qualifies as a habitual traffic offender;⁸⁶ or
- His or her license has been permanently revoked.⁸⁷

However, a person whose suspension or revocation is due to financial reasons and who does not have a prior forcible felony⁸⁸ conviction only faces misdemeanor DWLSR charges.⁸⁹ Additionally, the Florida Supreme Court has held that despite qualifying as a habitual traffic offender (HTO), a person who was never issued a driver license may not be charged with driving while license revoked as a HTO under the plain language of the statute because he or she never had a license.⁹⁰

Drug Offense Revocations

Federal Law

Federal law requires a state to revoke, suspend, or delay issuing or reinstating a driver license for a minimum term of six months upon a conviction for any drug offense.⁹¹ A state may allow for exceptions to the mandatory revocation, suspension, or delay requirement where compelling circumstances justify such an exception.⁹² The federal government may withhold federal highway funding from a noncompliant state.⁹³

Alternatively, a state may opt out of enacting or enforcing a six month revocation, suspension, or delay requirement and still receive federal highway funding if the governor certifies in writing that:

- The governor is opposed to such a law, and
- The legislature has adopted a resolution expressing its opposition to such a law.⁹⁴

⁷⁸ S. 322.091, F.S.

⁷⁹ S. 812.0155, F.S.

⁸⁰ S. 806.13, F.S.

⁸¹ S. 322.055, F.S.

⁸² S. 318.18, F.S.

⁸³ Ss. 322.34 and 322.341, F.S.

⁸⁴ The element of knowledge is satisfied if the person has been previously cited for driving while license suspended; or the person admits to knowledge of the cancellation, suspension, or revocation; or the person received notice of the cancellation, suspension, or revocation. There is a rebuttable presumption that the knowledge requirement is satisfied if a judgment or order appears in the department's records for any case except for one involving a suspension by the department for failure to pay a traffic fine or for a financial responsibility violation. S. 322.34(2), F.S.

⁸⁵ S. 322.34(2)(c), F.S.

⁸⁶ S. 322.34(5), F.S.

⁸⁷ S. 322.341, F.S.

⁸⁸ "Forcible felony" means treason; murder; manslaughter; sexual battery; carjacking; home-invasion robbery; robbery; burglary; arson; kidnapping; aggravated assault; aggravated battery; aggravated stalking; aircraft piracy; unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb; and any other felony which involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against any individual. S. 776.08, F.S.

⁸⁹ S. 322.34(1), F.S.

⁹⁰ *State v. Miller*, 227 So. 3d 532 (Fla. 2017).

⁹¹ 23 U.S.C. § 159(a)(3)(A)(i).

⁹² 23 U.S.C. § 159(a)(3)(A).

⁹³ 23 U.S.C. § 159(a) and (b).

⁹⁴ 23 U.S.C. § 159(a)(3)(B).

As of January 2018, 38 states had opted out of the revocation, suspension, or delay requirement.⁹⁵

Florida Law

In Florida, a person age 18 or older loses his or her driver license or driving privilege for one year upon being convicted of a drug offense, including:

- Possession of a controlled substance;
- Sale of a controlled substance;
- Trafficking in a controlled substance; or
- Conspiracy to possess, sell, or traffic in a controlled substance.⁹⁶

If a person already has a driver license or driving privilege at the time of conviction, DHSMV revokes his or her license or privilege for one year from the date of conviction.⁹⁷ If the person's driver license or driving privilege is suspended or revoked at the time he or she is convicted of a drug offense, DHSMV extends the suspension or revocation by one year.⁹⁸ If the person does not have a driver license or driving privilege, DHSMV withholds issuing a license or privilege for one year, either from the date of conviction or the date of eligibility, whichever is later.⁹⁹

The one year revocation, extension, or delay in issuance can be shortened under the following circumstances:

- The person is evaluated for and, if necessary, completes a drug treatment and rehabilitation program approved by the Department of Children and Families.
- A court directs DHSMV to issue a restricted license for business or employment purposes only.
- DHSMV grants a petition for restoration of a person's driving privilege. A person becomes eligible to file such a petition after six months of the revocation have expired.¹⁰⁰

Additionally, Florida law authorizes DHSMV to revoke a person's driver license for one year upon conviction for felony possession of a controlled substance if, at the time of such possession, the person was driving or in actual physical control of a motor vehicle.¹⁰¹ A person whose license is revoked for this reason is ineligible for any form of hardship license.¹⁰²

A person under age 18 who is found guilty of or delinquent for a drug offense or certain alcohol offenses¹⁰³ loses his or her driving privilege for:

- Between six months and one year for a first violation; and
- Two years for a second violation.¹⁰⁴

If a minor already has a driver license or driving privilege at the time of conviction, DHSMV revokes his or her license or privilege for the applicable time period, calculated from the date of conviction.¹⁰⁵ If a minor's driver license or driving privilege is suspended or revoked at the time of conviction, DHSMV

⁹⁵ The jurisdictions still enforcing a drug offense suspension law include: Alabama, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Joshua Aiken, *Reinstating Common Sense: How driver's license suspensions for drug offenses unrelated to driving are falling out of favor*, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/driving/national.html> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁹⁶ S. 322.055, F.S.

⁹⁷ S. 322.055(1), F.S.

⁹⁸ S. 322.055(3), F.S.

⁹⁹ S. 322.055(4), F.S.

¹⁰⁰ S. 322.044(1), (2), (3) and (4), F.S.

¹⁰¹ S. 322.27, F.S.

¹⁰² *Id.*

¹⁰³ Ss. 562.11(2) and 562.111, F.S.

¹⁰⁴ S. 322.056, F.S.

¹⁰⁵ S. 322.056(1)(a), F.S.

extends the suspension or revocation by the applicable amount of time.¹⁰⁶ If a minor does not have a driver license or driving privilege, DHSMV withholds issuing a license or privilege for the applicable time period, calculated from the date on which he or she would have become eligible for a driver license or driving privilege.¹⁰⁷ Like an adult whose driver license is revoked for a drug offense, a minor receiving a revocation under this section may also petition DHSMV for reinstatement after completing six months of the revocation.¹⁰⁸

Suspensions for Offenses Committed by Minors

A minor loses his or her driver license or driving privilege when found guilty or delinquent of certain criminal offenses or to have committed certain noncriminal offenses.

Offense	Mandatory Suspension or Revocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misrepresenting age to induce another to sell, give, serve, or deliver alcohol.¹⁰⁹ • Purchasing or attempting to purchase alcohol.¹¹⁰ • Possession of alcohol.¹¹¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 month to 1 year suspension for a first time offense. • 2 year suspension for a second or subsequent offense.¹¹²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession of tobacco (third violation in 12 weeks).¹¹³ • Misrepresenting age or military service to induce another to sell, give, furnish, or deliver tobacco (third violation in 12 weeks).¹¹⁴ • Possession of a nicotine product or nicotine dispensing device (third violation in 12 weeks).¹¹⁵ • Misrepresenting age or military service to induce another to sell, give, furnish, or deliver a nicotine product or nicotine-dispensing device (third violation in 12 weeks) 	60 day suspension. ¹¹⁶
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession of a firearm.¹¹⁷ • Possession or use of a firearm in the commission of any other crime.¹¹⁸ • Graffiti.¹¹⁹ 	1 year suspension. ¹²⁰

¹⁰⁶ S. 322.056(1)(b), F.S.

¹⁰⁷ S. 322.056(1)(c), F.S.

¹⁰⁸ S. 322.055, F.S.

¹⁰⁹ Ss. 322.056(1) and 562.11(2), F.S.

¹¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹¹ Ss. 322.056(1) and 562.111(1), F.S.

¹¹² S. 322.056(1), F.S.

¹¹³ Ss. 322.056(3) and 569.11(1), F.S.

¹¹⁴ Ss. 322.056(3) and 569.11(2), F.S.

¹¹⁵ Ss. 322.056(3) and 877.112(6), F.S.

¹¹⁶ S. 322.056(3), F.S.

¹¹⁷ Ss. 790.22(3) and (5), F.S.

¹¹⁸ Ss. 790.22(9) and (10), F.S.

¹¹⁹ Ss. 806.13(7) and (8), F.S.

¹²⁰ S. 790.22(5), F.S.

A minor who fails to comply with certain sanctions for committing specified noncriminal offenses also loses his or her driver license or driving privilege. For a first offense in which a minor fails to comply with sanctions, a court must suspend or order withholding issuance of a driver license for 30 days.¹²¹ For a second offense in which a minor fails to comply with sanctions, a court must suspend or order withholding issuing a driver license for 45 days.¹²² Noncriminal offenses for which a minor may lose his or her driving privilege for failing to comply with sanctions are:

- Possession of tobacco.¹²³
- Misrepresenting age or military service to induce another to sell, give, furnish, or deliver tobacco.¹²⁴
- Purchase of, or attempted purchase of, tobacco.¹²⁵
- Possession of a nicotine product or nicotine dispensing device.¹²⁶
- Misrepresenting age or military service to induce another to sell, give, furnish, or deliver a nicotine product or nicotine-dispensing device.¹²⁷

An adult who provides alcohol to a minor also faces suspension of his or her driving privilege for three to six months for a first offense and up to one year for a second offense.¹²⁸

Suspension for Theft

A court may order a person's driver license suspended upon an adjudication of guilt for misdemeanor theft.¹²⁹ A first time suspension on this basis may be for up to six months, and a second or subsequent suspension may be for up to one year.¹³⁰ A court may revoke, suspend, or order withholding issuing the driver license of a person younger than age 18 as an alternative to sentencing the minor under certain circumstances.¹³¹

Failure to Meet Court-Imposed Obligations

The clerk of court can notify DHSMV to suspend a license for several reasons, including failure to comply with civil penalties,¹³² failure to appear,¹³³ and failure to pay criminal financial obligations.¹³⁴ These suspensions last until the individual is compliant with the court's requirements for reinstatement¹³⁵ or, in the case of criminal financial obligations, the court grants relief from the suspension.¹³⁶ In FY 2017-18, over 1.25 million driver license suspensions were initiated by clerks of court for failure to meet court-imposed obligations.¹³⁷

¹²¹ S. 322.056(2), F.S.

¹²² S. 322.056(2), F.S.

¹²³ Ss. 322.056(2) and 569.11(1), F.S.

¹²⁴ Ss. 322.056(2) and 569.11(2), F.S.

¹²⁵ *Id.*

¹²⁶ Ss. 322.056(2) and 877.12(6), F.S.

¹²⁷ Ss. 322.056(2) and 877.12(7), F.S.

¹²⁸ Ss. 322.057 and 562.11(1), F.S.

¹²⁹ S. 812.0155, F.S.

¹³⁰ S. 812.0155(1), F.S.

¹³¹ S. 812.0155(2), F.S.

¹³² S. 318.15, F.S.

¹³³ S. 318.15, F.S.

¹³⁴ S. 322.245, F.S.

¹³⁵ Ss. 318.15(2) and 322.245(5), F.S.

¹³⁶ S. 322.245(5), F.S.

¹³⁷ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, *Sanctions Created/Effective for FY 17/18* (January 8, 2019).

Payment Plans, Community Service Options, and Collections

The clerk of court is required to accept partial payment of court-related fees, service charges, costs, or fines in accordance with the terms of an established payment plan.¹³⁸ The court may review the reasonableness of the payment plan. A monthly payment amount is presumed to correspond to the person's ability to pay if the amount does not exceed two percent of the person's annual net income, divided by 12.¹³⁹

The court may convert a statutory financial obligation in a criminal case or a noncriminal traffic infraction into a requirement to perform community service.¹⁴⁰ The hourly conversion rate for community service is equal to the federal minimum wage,¹⁴¹ unless the person performing the community service has a trade or profession for which there is a community service need, in which case the rate is the prevailing wage rate for that trade or profession.¹⁴²

The clerk of court must pursue the collection of any financial obligations that remain unpaid after 90 days by referring the account to a private attorney or collection agent.¹⁴³ The clerk must have attempted to collect the unpaid obligation through a collection court, collections docket, or any other collections process prior to referring the account for collection, find the referral to be cost-effective, and follow any applicable procurement processes.¹⁴⁴ A collection fee of up to 40 percent of the amount owed at the time the account is referred may be added to the outstanding balance.¹⁴⁵

Reinstatement Clinics

A person with a suspended or revoked license cannot legally drive, which may inhibit his or her ability to work and further compound the problem of outstanding financial obligations. Several counties have held events to assist individuals whose licenses are suspended for financial reasons related to civil penalties or criminal financial obligations. In April 2015, 60 out of 67 counties participated in Operation Green Light, a short-term event during which clerks of court waived the 40 percent collections surcharge in exchange for full payment of outstanding financial obligations, resulting in reinstatement.¹⁴⁶ The total statewide cost for the event was \$132,707.21; the clerks collected \$5,414,069.35 and reinstated 1,851 licenses.¹⁴⁷ Several counties have since conducted similar events.

Effect of the Bill - Driver Licenses

Revocation for Drug Offenses

The bill changes the one year revocation for an adult drug offense conviction to a six month suspension. If a person already has a driver license or driving privilege at the time of conviction, DHSMV suspends his or her license or privilege for six months from the date of conviction. If the person's driver license or driving privilege is suspended or revoked at the time he or she is convicted of

¹³⁸ S. 28.246(4), F.S.

¹³⁹ S. 28.246(4), F.S.

¹⁴⁰ Ss. 938.30(2) and 318.18(8)(b)1.a., F.S.

¹⁴¹ 29 U.S.C. § 206 (2018).

¹⁴² S. 318.18(8)(b)1.b., F.S.; Bureau of Labor Statistics, *May 2016 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates: United States*, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#00-0000 (last visited May 10, 2019) (e.g. the mean hourly wage for an electrician is \$27.24).

¹⁴³ S. 28.246(6), F.S.

¹⁴⁴ S. 28.246(6), F.S.

¹⁴⁵ S. 28.246(6), F.S.

¹⁴⁶ Harrison Barrus, *Operation green light gives ticket payers a break*, News 4 JAX, <https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/operation-green-light-gives-ticket-payers-a-break> (last visited May 10, 2019).

¹⁴⁷ Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation, *Operation Green Light Success Story* (Summer 2015).

a drug offense, DHSMV extends the suspension or revocation by six months.¹⁴⁸ If the person does not have a driver license or driving privilege, DHSMV withholds issuing a license or privilege for:

- Six months from the date of conviction for a person otherwise eligible by reason of age for a driver license;¹⁴⁹ or
- Six months from the date on which the person would reach eligibility for a person ineligible by reason of age for a driver license.¹⁵⁰

The bill repeals the provisions of s. 322.055, F.S., that permit a person to apply to DHSMV for early reinstatement six months into the revocation. The bill amends the language granting a court the authority to issue a hardship license to require the court to find a compelling circumstance to justify the exception, consistent with federal requirements for highway funding. The bill retains a person's ability to have his or her license reinstated before six months upon being evaluated for and completing, if necessary, a drug treatment and rehabilitation program. The bill also reduces the suspension, extension of suspension, or withholding of issuing a driver license for a person younger than 18 convicted of a drug offense to six months.

Suspensions for Offenses Committed by Minors

The bill:

- Repeals all bases for suspension for minors relating to possession of, purchase of, and misrepresenting age or military service to obtain alcohol, tobacco, and nicotine.
- Converts the mandatory suspension of a driver license for possession of a firearm by a minor to a discretionary suspension.
- Converts the mandatory suspension for graffiti committed by a minor to a discretionary suspension.
- Repeals the suspension for an adult convicted of providing alcohol to a minor.

Suspension for Theft

The bill repeals the authority of the court to suspend a driver license for an adjudication of guilt for a misdemeanor theft offense. However, the bill retains the authority of a court to suspend a driver license as an alternative sentence for a person less than 18 years old who is adjudicated delinquent or guilty of misdemeanor theft.

Support Delinquency

The bill allows a person owing a delinquent child support obligation to enter into an agreement with the Department of Revenue (DOR), within 20 days of receiving notice of delinquency, for a reasonable period of payment deferral to accommodate the person's good faith job-seeking efforts. Under this agreement, DOR will defer requesting a driver license suspension from DHSMV for the specified period to allow the person to continue seeking employment with the goal of ultimately paying the outstanding support obligation. A person already under suspension for such delinquency may also be eligible for driver license reinstatement upon entering into such an agreement with DOR.

Driving While License Suspended or Revoked

The bill creates and defines "suspension or revocation equivalent status" to allow DHSMV to designate a person who does not have a driver license or driving privilege, but otherwise meets criteria for suspension or revocation of the license or privilege. The bill adds this new designation to the bases for

¹⁴⁸ S. 322.055(3), F.S.

¹⁴⁹ S. 322.055(2), F.S.

¹⁵⁰ S. 322.055(4), F.S.

which a person may be charged and prosecuted for driving while license suspended or revoked. As a result, a person who has never been issued a driver license, but otherwise would qualify for a suspension or revocation, is treated the same under the law as a person who at one time complied with the licensure requirement. Additionally, the bill amends s. 322.34(5), F.S., to remove the requirement that a person's driver license be revoked to be prosecuted for a third degree felony offense, and instead only requires that such person drives while designated a habitual traffic offender.

The bill also reduces the penalties associated with driving while license suspended or revoked for a third or subsequent offense to a first degree misdemeanor, provided the suspension or revocation does not relate to specified dangerous driving offenses. The bill requires a person convicted of a third or subsequent offense under this section to serve a minimum of 10 days in jail. The penalties for a third or subsequent conviction remain a third degree felony if the current or most recent violation is related to driving while license suspended or revoked, or suspension or revocation equivalent status resulting from a violation of:

- Driving under the influence;
- Refusal to submit to a urine, breath alcohol, or blood alcohol test;
- A traffic offense causing death or serious bodily injury; or
- Fleeing or eluding.

Driver License Reinstatement Days

The bill requires each clerk of court to establish a Driver License Reinstatement Days program for reinstating suspended driver licenses. The clerk may work collaboratively with DHSMV, the state attorney's office, the public defender's office, the circuit and county courts, and any interested community organization. The bill encourages clerks to offer the event outside of regular business hours or on a weekend. Participants must pay the full license reinstatement fee; however, the clerk may compromise or waive other fees and costs not ordered by a court to facilitate reinstatement. The clerk is required to report specified data to the Florida Clerks of the Court Operations Corporation relating to the costs and success of the program.

A person is eligible for the Driver License Reinstatement Days program if his or her driver license or driving privilege was suspended for:

- Driving without a valid license;
- Driving with a suspended license;
- Failing to make a payment on penalties in collection;
- Failing to appear in court for a traffic violation; or
- Failing to comply with directives for a traffic infraction or driver license offense.

A person is not eligible for reinstatement under the program if his or her driver license or driving privilege is suspended or revoked:

- Because the person failed to fulfill a court-ordered child support obligation;
- For DUI;
- Because the person has not completed a required driver training program, driver improvement course, or alcohol or substance abuse education or evaluation program;
- For a traffic-related felony; or
- Because the person is a habitual traffic offender.

Escape

Background

A person confined in any prison, jail, private correctional facility, camp, or other penal institution,¹⁵¹ working on public roads, or being transported from a place of confinement, who escapes or attempts to escape confinement commits a second degree felony.¹⁵² Florida law requires a sentence imposed for an escape conviction to run consecutively to any sentence previously imposed.

Recently, the Fifth District Court of Appeal highlighted a situation in which a confined person, granted temporary release from custody, could not be prosecuted for escape for failing to return to jail. In *Rodriguez v. State*,¹⁵³ a court granted the defendant, who was in jail awaiting trial, a one-day furlough to attend his daughter's funeral. The court ordered the defendant to return to jail within 24 hours after his release. The defendant failed to return and was subsequently arrested and charged with escape. The Fifth District interpreted s. 944.40, F.S., to apply only to prisoners already sentenced, and not to those persons on a form of pretrial release, for example, a person temporarily released from confinement on a furlough.

Effect of the Bill- Escape

The bill amends s. 944.40, F.S., to include escape or an attempt to escape by an offender released on furlough as a second degree felony. As such, an offender who benefits from a temporary release from custody through furlough may be prosecuted for escaping or attempting to escape from custody by failing to return to jail in the same manner as an offender who escapes or attempts to escape from the physical custody of a prison or jail.

Substance Abuse Programs

Background

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) regulates substance abuse treatment by licensing individual treatment components under ch. 397, F.S., and Rule 65D-30, F.A.C. All private and publicly-funded entities providing substance abuse services must be licensed for each service component they provide.¹⁵⁴ While accreditation is not a requirement for initial licensure, when an applicant applies for licensure renewal a first time, he or she must include proof of an accreditation application for each licensed service component which provides clinical treatment, from an accrediting organization the department deems acceptable, and proof of accreditation is required for any subsequent renewal.¹⁵⁵

Effect of the Bill- Substance Abuse Programs

The bill exempts an inmate substance abuse program operated by a sheriff or under the Department of Corrections¹⁵⁶ from accreditation requirements through DCF. Accreditation requirements for such programs are generally included in the terms of the contract between the substance abuse provider and the sheriff or prison operating the program.

¹⁵¹ Whether operated by the state, a county, or a municipality, or operated under a contract with the state, a county, or a municipality. S. 944.40, F.S.

¹⁵² A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

¹⁵³ 224 So. 3d 811 (Fla. 5th DCA 2017).

¹⁵⁴ S. 397.403, F.S.

¹⁵⁵ S. 397.403(3), F.S.

¹⁵⁶ Such programs are often exempt from other licensure requirements, such as background screening requirements for substance abuse provider personnel.

Problem-Solving Courts Report

Background

Problem-solving courts are specialized, non-traditional courts addressing the underlying causes of crime to reduce recidivism and promote rehabilitation. Florida has over 170 problem-solving courts, including drug courts, veterans' courts, mental health courts, early childhood courts, permanency courts, community courts, homelessness court, and DUI courts. See *Community Courts, infra*, for more information.

Effect of the Bill- Problem Solving Courts Report

The bill requires the Office of the State Courts Administrator to create an annual report for problem-solving courts, including but not limited to:

- Drug courts;
- Military veterans' and servicemembers' courts;
- Mental health courts;
- Community courts; and
- Delinquency pretrial intervention courts.

The report must be provided to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and with respect to each problem-solving court, must identify the:

- Number of participants;
- Types of services provided;
- Funding source; and
- Performance, based on outcome measures.

Pretrial Drug Court

Background

A qualified person is entitled to enter a voluntary, one-year pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program,¹⁵⁷ including a county treatment-based drug court program.¹⁵⁸ A drug court team develops a coordinated strategy for each participant in a drug court program.¹⁵⁹ A pretrial drug court program may use sanctions for noncompliance once a participant has agreed to the program, including placement in a treatment program or short periods of incarceration.¹⁶⁰ A court must dismiss the charges upon finding a person successfully completed the program.¹⁶¹ If a person does not successfully complete the program, a court may order the person into further education and treatment or order that the charges revert to the normal channels for prosecution.¹⁶²

Upon motion by either party or the court's own motion, a court must allow an eligible person who wishes to enter a pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program court to do so,¹⁶³ subject to certain exceptions.¹⁶⁴ A person is eligible for a pretrial drug court program if he or she:

- Is charged with:
 - A nonviolent felony¹⁶⁵ and is identified as having a substance abuse problem; or

¹⁵⁷ S. 948.08(6)(a), F.S.

¹⁵⁸ S. 397.334, F.S.

¹⁵⁹ Ss. 397.334(4) and 948.08(6)(b), F.S.

¹⁶⁰ S. 948.08(6)(b), F.S.

¹⁶¹ S. 948.08(6)(c), F.S.

¹⁶² *Id.*

¹⁶³ S. 948.08(6)(a), F.S.

¹⁶⁴ Ss. 948.08(6)(a)1. and 2., F.S.

- A second or third degree felony for purchase or possession of a controlled substance, prostitution, tampering with evidence, solicitation for purchase of a controlled substance, or obtaining a prescription by fraud.
- Has not been charged with a crime of violence.
- Has not previously been convicted of a felony.

However, a court may deny a person's admission to a pretrial drug court program if the person was previously offered admission to a program and rejected the offer on the record.¹⁶⁶ Additionally, the state attorney may request a preadmission hearing for a person believed to be involved in dealing or selling controlled substances; if the state proves such involvement by a preponderance of the evidence, a court must deny the person admission into the pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program.¹⁶⁷

Effect of the Bill - Pretrial Drug Court

The bill expands eligibility for pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention programs by allowing a person with up to two prior felony convictions to enter the program, provided the prior felony convictions are for nonviolent felonies. The bill also requires any person entering drug court to be:

- Identified as having a substance abuse problem; and
- Amenable to treatment.

The bill grants a court discretion to deny admission to an eligible person with prior felony convictions. Admission of an eligible person with no prior felony convictions remains mandatory.

Regulatory Mandatory Minimum Sentencing- Horse Meat

Background

Generally, horse meat is consumed in parts of Europe, Asia and South America.¹⁶⁸ The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) requires the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to inspect all "amenable species," such as, cattle, sheep, goats, and horses, when slaughtered for processing into products for human consumption.¹⁶⁹ This act, administered by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), ensures that meat and meat products from these animals are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

Congress has banned the use of federal funds to conduct mandatory inspections at horse slaughterhouses since 2014, effectively preventing any domestic horse slaughter operation.¹⁷⁰ The last three U.S. horse slaughterhouses, all exporting to foreign markets, closed in 2007.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁵ A nonviolent felony means a third degree felony burglary or trespass offense or any other felony offense that is not a forcible felony under s. 776.08, F.S. S. 948.08(6)(a), F.S.

¹⁶⁶ S. 948.08(a)1., F.S.

¹⁶⁷ S. 948.08(a)2., F.S.

¹⁶⁸ Jessica Sutcliffe, *Do Not Use in Horses Intended for Human Consumption: Horse Meat and Its Public Health Danger* (May 1, 2014), https://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1588&context=student_scholarship (last visited May 10, 2019).

¹⁶⁹ National Conference of State Legislatures, *Federal Food Safety Laws* (2008), <http://www.ncsl.org/documents/agri/foodsafetylaws.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

¹⁷⁰ *Id.*

¹⁷¹ *Id.*

Currently, a person commits a third degree felony that carries a one-year mandatory minimum sentence if he or she:

- Sells horse meat for human consumption, unless the horse meat is clearly stamped, marked, and described as horse meat for human consumption; or
- Transports, distributes, sells, purchases, or possesses horsemeat for human consumption that is not clearly stamped, marked, and described as horsemeat for human consumption or horsemeat that is not acquired from a licensed slaughterhouse.¹⁷²

Effect of the Bill - Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

The bill abolishes the mandatory minimum sentence for the sale, purchase, or possession of horsemeat for human consumption unless clearly stamped, marked, and described as horsemeat for human consumption. Defendants convicted for the sale of horsemeat for human consumption will be sentenced based on the Criminal Punishment Code, rather than be required to serve a mandatory minimum sentence.

Prison Releasee Reoffender

Background

A prison releasee reoffender is a person being sentenced for committing or attempting to commit a qualifying offense¹⁷³ within three years of being released from:

- A state correctional facility operated by DOC or a private vendor; or
- A correctional institution of another jurisdiction following incarceration for which the sentence is punishable by more than one year in Florida.¹⁷⁴

A prison releasee reoffender also includes a person who commits or attempts to commit a qualifying offense while serving a prison sentence or on escape status from a state correctional facility operated by DOC or a private vendor, or from a correctional institution of another jurisdiction.¹⁷⁵

A court must sentence a prison releasee reoffender to a:

- Five year mandatory minimum for a third degree felony.
- 15 year mandatory minimum for a second degree felony.
- 30 year mandatory minimum for a first degree felony.
- Life mandatory minimum for a first degree felony punishable by life or life felony.¹⁷⁶

Under certain circumstances, a court may sentence a person to a prison sentence, which is a term of imprisonment for a felony exceeding one year, but the person may ultimately be released from a county detention facility¹⁷⁷ rather than prison. For example, a court must give a defendant credit for time served in the county jail when imposing a sentence.¹⁷⁸ If a defendant stays in detention during the pendency of

¹⁷² S. 500.451, F.S.

¹⁷³ Qualifying offenses for prison releasee reoffender status are treason; murder; manslaughter; sexual battery; carjacking; home-invasion robbery; robbery; arson; kidnapping; aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; aggravated battery; aggravated stalking; aircraft piracy; unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb; any felony that involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against an individual; armed burglary; burglary of a dwelling or burglary of an occupied structure; use of a weapon in the commission of a felony; lewd or lascivious offense upon or in the presence of a person less than 16 years old; abuse, aggravated abuse, or neglect of a child; sexual performance by a child; and computer pornography. S. 775.082(9)(a)3., F.S.

¹⁷⁴ S. 775.082(9)(a)1., F.S.

¹⁷⁵ S. 775.082(9)(a)2., F.S.

¹⁷⁶ S. 775.082(9)(a)3., F.S.

¹⁷⁷ A county detention facility means county jail, a county stockade, a county work camp, a county residential probation center, and any other place except a municipal detention facility used by a county or county officer for the detention of persons charged with or convicted of either felony or misdemeanor. S. 951.23(1)(a), F.S.

¹⁷⁸ S. 921.161(1), F.S.

his or her case for two years and is sentenced to two years in prison with credit for time served, that defendant would have served the entirety of his or her “prison” sentence in county jail and would be released from the county jail. A person may also stay in a county detention facility while serving a prison sentence to resolve or testify in other pending matters, causing such person to potentially be released from county jail on a prison sentence rather than from prison.

In December 2018, the Florida Supreme Court held that a defendant released from a county jail after having been committed to the legal custody of DOC was not a prison releasee reoffender within the meaning of the current prison releasee reoffender sentencing statute.¹⁷⁹

Effect of the Bill - Prison Releasee Reoffender

The bill amends the definition of prison releasee reoffender to include a person who was released from a county detention facility following incarceration for an offense for which the sentence pronounced was a prison sentence.

Drug Trafficking

Background

Drug trafficking occurs when a person knowingly sells, purchases, manufactures, delivers, or brings into the state, or is in actual or constructive possession of, a specified quantity of a controlled substance.¹⁸⁰ Generally, drug trafficking offenses are first degree felonies,¹⁸¹ punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment.¹⁸² Section 893.135, F.S., outlines threshold amounts of the applicable controlled substance for each trafficking offense. All drug trafficking offenses are subject to mandatory minimum sentences and heightened fines, which are determined by the threshold amounts. Absent waiver by the prosecutor, a judge may not sentence an offender below the statutory mandatory minimum sentence; however, the prosecutor may waive the mandatory minimum.¹⁸³

Hydrocodone and Oxycodone

A person traffics in hydrocodone when he or she knowingly sells, purchases, manufactures, delivers, or brings into the state, or is knowingly in actual or constructive possession of, 14 grams of more of hydrocodone. The following thresholds determine the applicable mandatory minimum sentence and fine.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁹ *State v. Lewars*, 259 So. 3d 793 (Fla. 2018).

¹⁸⁰ Florida law criminalizes trafficking in cannabis; cocaine; illegal drugs, which include morphine, opium, hydromorphone, or any salt derivative, isomer, or salt of an isomer thereof, including heroin; hydrocodone, oxycodone; fentanyl; phencyclidine; methaqualone; amphetamine; flunitrazepam; gamma-hydroxybutyric (GHB); gamma-butyrolactone (GBL); 1,4-Butanediol; phenethylamines; lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD); synthetic cannabinoids; and n-benzyl phenethylamines. S. 893.135, F.S.

¹⁸¹ Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

¹⁸² Trafficking in certain controlled substances can be a capital offense under specified circumstances. See, e.g., s. 893.135(1)(h)2., F.S. (Any person who knowingly manufactures or brings into this state 400 grams or more of amphetamine . . . who knows that the probable result of such manufacture or importation would be the death of any person commits capital manufacture or importation of amphetamine, a capital felony).

¹⁸³ *Madrigal v. State*, 545 So. 2d 392 (Fla. 3d DCA 1989) (prosecutor has right to waive the mandatory minimum sentence requirement absent any rule or statutory authority).

¹⁸⁴ S. 893.135(1)(c)2., F.S.

Hydrocodone Threshold	Mandatory Minimum	Fine
≥ 14 g. but < 28 g.	3 yrs.	\$50,000
≥ 28 g. but < 50 g.	7 yrs.	\$100,000
≥ 50 g. but < 200 g.	15 yrs.	\$500,000
≥ 200 g. but < 30 kg.	25 yrs.	\$750,000
≥ 30 kg.	Life	\$500,000

A person traffics in oxycodone when he or she knowingly sells, purchases, manufactures, delivers, or brings into the state, or is knowingly in actual or constructive possession of, seven grams or more of oxycodone.¹⁸⁵ The following thresholds determine the applicable mandatory minimum sentence and fine.¹⁸⁶

Oxycodone Threshold	Mandatory Minimum	Fine
≥ 7 g. but < 14 g.	3 yrs.	\$50,000
≥ 14 g. but < 25 g.	7 yrs.	\$100,000
≥ 25 g. but < 100 g.	15 yrs.	\$500,000
≥ 100 g. but < 30 kg.	25 yrs.	\$750,000
≥ 30 kg.	Life	\$500,000

The Legislature created the specific crimes of trafficking in hydrocodone and oxycodone in 2014.¹⁸⁷ Prior to the creation of these specific offenses, both substances were covered by the crime of “trafficking in illegal drugs,” with the following thresholds and corresponding mandatory minimums and fines.¹⁸⁸

2013 Illegal Drugs Threshold	Mandatory Minimum	Fine
≥ 4 g. but < 14 g.	3 yrs.	\$50,000
≥ 14 g. but < 28 g.	15 yrs.	\$100,000
≥ 28 g. but < 30 kg.	25 yrs.	\$500,000
≥ 30 kg.	Life	\$500,000
≥ 60 kg.	Capital Offense	\$500,000

A 2012 report by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) addressed sentencing laws for trafficking in prescription opioids such as hydrocodone and oxycodone.¹⁸⁹ For these drugs, which usually present in pill form, the weight of the entire pill – including noncontrolled substance additives – contributes to the total weight for determining the threshold. A common example is a medication that contains both hydrocodone and acetaminophen. OPPAGA cited such a pill that had a weight of 0.65 grams and contained 10 milligrams (mg.) of hydrocodone; it found that “it takes 7 pills of 10 mg. hydrocodone, which are large pills with 325 to 750 mg. of acetaminophen, to reach the [then] threshold of 4 grams for a minimum mandatory prison sentence of three years.”¹⁹⁰ The Legislature raised the threshold such that it now requires 22 such pills to reach the threshold of 14 grams of hydrocodone for a mandatory minimum sentence of three years.

¹⁸⁵ S. 893.135(1)(c)3., F.S.

¹⁸⁶ *Id.*

¹⁸⁷ Ch. 2014-176 § 1, Laws of Fla.

¹⁸⁸ S. 893.135(1)(c)1., F.S. (2013).

¹⁸⁹ OPPAGA, *Opinions Are Mixed About Sentencing Laws for Painkiller Trafficking*, Report No. 12-02, <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1202rpt.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019), at 1.

¹⁹⁰ *Id.* at 5.

Comparing hydrocodone to oxycodone, OPPAGA examined a sample medication containing 30 mg. of oxycodone and no acetaminophen that weighed 0.13 grams. It found that:

. . . [I]t takes approximately 31 pills of 30 mg. oxycodone to reach the [then] threshold of 4 grams since this type of oxycodone is a smaller pill and does not include acetaminophen. Thus, it takes more oxycodone pills than hydrocodone pills to trigger a minimum mandatory sentence, even though oxycodone is more potent and likely to lead to adverse outcomes, such as addiction and overdose.¹⁹¹

Raising the threshold from four grams to seven grams in creating the crime of trafficking in oxycodone made it so that it would take 54 of the sample oxycodone pills cited in the OPPAGA report to reach the three year mandatory minimum threshold.

Effect of the Bill - Drug Trafficking

The bill raises the base threshold amount for trafficking in hydrocodone from 14 grams to 28 grams. Looking at the sample hydrocodone pill examined by OPPAGA, the new threshold requires 44 pills containing 10 mg. of hydrocodone to reach a trafficking amount. This threshold is more aligned with the pill count threshold for oxycodone, which requires 54 sample pills containing 30 mg. of oxycodone.

The bill similarly raises the mandatory minimum penalty thresholds to:

Hydrocodone Threshold	Mandatory Minimum	Fine
≥ 28 g. but < 50 g.	3 yrs.	\$50,000
≥ 50 g. but < 100 g.	7 yrs.	\$100,000
≥ 100 g. but < 300 g.	15 yrs.	\$500,000
≥ 300 g. but < 30 kg.	25 yrs.	\$750,000
≥ 30 kg.	Life	\$500,000

Criminal Justice Data Transparency

Background

Data collection is the process of gathering and measuring information on variables of interest, in an established systematic fashion, to answer research questions, test hypotheses, and evaluate outcomes.¹⁹² In order for data to be effective, it must be accurate, reliable, and valid.¹⁹³ A strong foundation in research methods and data analysis techniques allows for evidence-based decisionmaking, greater understanding, and identifying strengths, weaknesses, or potential issues.¹⁹⁴

Data Collection by Florida's Criminal Justice Agencies

Currently, Florida does not have a publicly accessible website containing comprehensive criminal justice data. Data is collected and maintained by several state departments, local agencies and local offices, including clerks of court, state attorney's offices, public defender's offices, county jails, and the Department of Corrections (DOC). Each entity collects and maintains data in different ways and for different purposes. As a result, available criminal justice data is fractured and unstructured.

¹⁹¹ *Id.*

¹⁹² Responsible Conduct of Research, Northern Illinois University, https://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/n_illinois_u/dfront.html (last visited May 10, 2019).

¹⁹³ *Id.*

¹⁹⁴ Kristie R. Blevings, Ph.D., Eastern Kentucky University, March 26, 2013, <http://plsonline.eku.edu/insideloook/importance-research-and-analysis-policing> (last visited May 10, 2019).

In 2018, the Legislature passed SB 1392 to standardize and consolidate the collection and reporting of criminal justice data and promote transparency. The law requires the clerks of court, state attorneys, public defenders, county jail operators, and the DOC to collect certain data elements and transmit them monthly to the Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).¹⁹⁵ FDLE must create a unique identifier for each criminal case, which identifies the person involved, and tracks that person's experience in the criminal justice system. Additionally, FDLE must publish the data on its department website and make it searchable by specified categories.¹⁹⁶

Clerks of Court

The clerks of court use a secured single point-of-search database portal for statewide court case information, the Comprehensive Case Information System (CCIS).¹⁹⁷ CCIS was implemented in 2002 as an initiative to view court case information across county and circuit lines.¹⁹⁸ All clerks are statutorily required to participate in CCIS and submit data for criminal, civil, juvenile, probate and traffic cases.¹⁹⁹ Section 28.24(12)(e), F.S. directs the clerks to maintain CCIS as the custodian of records generated by the system.

CCIS collects the following data, searchable by name or case information:

- Individual name demographic information.
- Case/charge information.
- Court events.
- Progress dockets.
- Financial (assessments/collections).
- Warrant/summons information.
- Sentencing information.
- Document images.²⁰⁰

CCIS contains approximately 150 million cases and 400 million names.²⁰¹

There are approximately 80 governmental organizations that use CCIS, with over 45,000 active users.²⁰² These organizations include federal, state, and local level entities.²⁰³ Each user or organization is assigned a security level that allows them to view certain data available on CCIS.²⁰⁴ For example, an assistant public defender may not have the same level of access as a deputy sheriff. Not all data elements are available to all users, and CCIS is not publicly available.

A government organization granted access to CCIS may use the database to search information on past or present cases. A user may search for information by using a person's name, social security number or date of birth.²⁰⁵ There is also an option to narrow the search field results to within a date range or specific county.²⁰⁶ In order to search by case number, the user will need to know the county

¹⁹⁵ S. 900.05, F.S.

¹⁹⁶ *Id.* and s. 943.6871, F.S.

¹⁹⁷ Comprehensive Case Information System access site, <https://www.flccis.com/ocrs/login.xhtml> (last visited April 17, 2019).

¹⁹⁸ Upgraded versions of this system have since been implemented in 2009 and again in 2016.

¹⁹⁹ S. 28.2405, F.S.

²⁰⁰ Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers, *Criminal Court Case Data Collection*, power point presentation to House Judiciary Committee on November 14, 2017.

²⁰¹ *Id.*

²⁰² Email from the Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers, January 26, 2018.

²⁰³ Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers, *supra* note 201.

²⁰⁴ *Id.*

²⁰⁵ CCIS User Guide, February 21, 2017.

²⁰⁶ *Id.* at 5.

where the case originated, the court case type, and the year.²⁰⁷ A user may also enter a party name to see if any active warrants are issued in a case.²⁰⁸

CCIS is limited to person and court case information, and allows a user to search a person's case history and the information within each case. However, CCIS is not interactive, meaning a user cannot search data using other elements, such as offense charges or race and ethnicity.

Below is a chart of organizations with over 100 users currently using CCIS:²⁰⁹

CCIS Users	
Organization	Active Users
Department of Children and Families	6825
County Sheriff	3650
Department of Corrections	3211
State Attorney	2349
Local Police	1972
U.S. Department of Homeland Security	1777
Department of Revenue	1665
Public Defender	1527
Judicial Circuits	928
Department of Juvenile Justice	706
Department of Law Enforcement	576
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles	504
Fish and Wildlife Commission	474
U.S. Probation Office	461
Attorney General	433
County Office	304
Department of Financial Services	297
Justice Administrative Commission	268
Department of Health	267
Highway Patrol	215
Department of Education	196
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	191
Guardian Ad Litem	180
Department of Business and Profession Regulation	178
FL District Court of Appeals	135
Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Council	114
Commission on Offender Review	112

County Detention Facilities

A county detention facility is a jail, stockade, work camp, residential probation center, or any other place, except a municipal detention facility, used by a county or county officer for the detention of persons charged with or convicted of a crime.²¹⁰

²⁰⁷ *Id.* at 9.

²⁰⁸ *Id.* at 10.

²⁰⁹ Email, *supra* note 203.

²¹⁰ S. 951.23(1)(a), F.S.

There are 67 county jail facilities in Florida:

- 59 jail facilities are operated by the sheriff's office.²¹¹
- 7 jail facilities are operated by the county.²¹²
- 1 jail facility is operated by a private company.²¹³

Data collection and storage by jail facilities varies greatly from county to county.²¹⁴ Larger jails, such as Miami-Dade and Duval, have data systems allowing for direct data input and report generation.²¹⁵ Smaller jails have created databases using Microsoft Access or other commercially available templates.²¹⁶

Administrators of county detention facilities are required by statute to collect and report to the DOC the following information:

- The number of persons housed per day, admitted per month, and housed on the last day of the month, by age, race, and sex, who are:
 - Felons sentenced to cumulative sentences of incarceration of 364 days or less.
 - Felons sentenced to cumulative sentences of incarceration of 365 days or more.
 - Sentenced misdemeanants.
 - Awaiting trial on at least one felony charge.
 - Awaiting trial on misdemeanor charges only.
 - Convicted felons and misdemeanants who are awaiting sentencing.
 - Juveniles.
 - State parole violators.
 - State inmates who were transferred from a state correctional facility to a county detention facility.
- The number of persons housed per day, admitted per month, and housed on the last day of the month, by age, race, sex, county of citizenship, country of birth, and immigration status, classified as one of the following:
 - Permanent legal resident of the United States.
 - Legal visitor.
 - Undocumented or illegal alien.
 - Unknown status.
- The number of persons housed per day, and admitted per month by age, race, and sex under part I of chapter 394, "The Florida Mental Health Act," or pursuant to chapter 397, "Substance Abuse Services."²¹⁷

DOC uses such data to analyze and evaluate county detention facilities.²¹⁸

Many jails also collect data relating to jail capacity, per diems, demographic data, criminal charges, custody levels, and medical information for internal purposes.²¹⁹ This data can be used to manage daily operations, including custody level and safety trends, verifying total jail costs and budgets, and ensuring proper staffing and training.²²⁰

²¹¹ Email from Florida Sheriffs Association, October 10, 2017.

²¹² Escambia, Gulf, Jefferson, Miami-Dade, Okaloosa, Orange, Osceola, and Volusia. *Id.*

²¹³ Citrus county. *Id.*

²¹⁴ Florida Sheriffs Association, *Criminal Justice Data Collection*, Power Point presentation to Judiciary Committee on November 14, 2017.

²¹⁵ *Id.*

²¹⁶ *Id.*

²¹⁷ S. 951.23(2), F.S.

²¹⁸ S. 951.23(3), F.S.

²¹⁹ Florida Sheriff's Association, *supra* note 215.

²²⁰ *Id.*

State Attorneys and Public Defenders

The roles, duties and obligations of state attorneys and public defenders are prescribed in parts II and III of ch. 27, F.S., respectively. There is no statutory requirement for a state attorney or public defender to collect, publish or report specific data. Many circuits, on their own initiative, may collect data elements for internal purposes. However, this data is not publicly available or consistently shared among agencies.

Department of Corrections

The Offender Based Information System (OBIS) is the DOC data system.²²¹ OBIS is maintained by the Agency for State Technology's State Data Center and accessed by employees around the state.²²² The data collected includes sentencing information and scoresheets from the clerks of court, the criminal history information from FDLE, and background information self-reported by inmates.²²³

The data maintained in OBIS includes:

- **Sentencing Information:** offense of conviction, offense data, imposed date, presentence credit, sentence length, special provisions, county of conviction and scoresheet calculated points.
- **Criminal History Information:** arrest history, offense dates and dispositions.
- **Demographic and Background Information:** marital status, employment history and education.
- **Operational Information:** gang affiliation, substance abuse treatment needs, Tests of Adult Basic Education, Spectrum assessment, job assignments, program participation, disciplinary reports and employer (for probationers).²²⁴

The information in OBIS is shared with law enforcement and other state and federal agencies per statute, federal law or other directives, such as Memoranda of Understanding or Data Sharing Agreements.²²⁵

The Bureau of Research and Data Analysis (Bureau) at DOC analyzes OBIS data to generate information for the department, staff, the Governor's office, the Legislature and other state agencies.²²⁶ One of the reports issued by the Bureau is the recidivism rate.²²⁷ DOC defines recidivism as a return to prison due to a new conviction or a violation of post-prison supervision, within three years of an inmate's prison release date.²²⁸ DOC uses the data on recidivism to analyze factors that influence an inmate's likelihood to recidivate, as well as recidivism based on gender, race, and primary offenses.²²⁹ A report issued in December 2017 examined recidivism from 2009 to 2015 and found:

- Female inmates' recidivism rate was 13.2% compared to male inmates' recidivism rate at 27.1%.
- Inmates with the primary offense of burglary were most likely to recidivate at 31%.
- Inmates with the primary offense of murder/manslaughter were least likely to recidivate at 18%.
- Inmates less than 25 years old were most likely to recidivate at a rate of 31%.

²²¹ S. 20.315(10), F.S.

²²² Florida Department of Corrections, *Overview of FDC Criminal Justice Data*, Power Point presentation to Judiciary Committee on November 14, 2017.

²²³ *Id.*

²²⁴ *Id.*

²²⁵ *Id.*

²²⁶ Florida Department of Corrections, *Bureau of Research and Data Analysis*.

²²⁷ Florida Department of Corrections, *Florida Prison Recidivism Study*, December 2017.

²²⁸ *Id.*

²²⁹ Florida Department of Corrections, *Florida Prison Recidivism Report: Releases from 2009 to 2015*, December 2017.

- Other factors that increases recidivism include homelessness, gang membership, and supervision following prison time.²³⁰

Other reports and statistical information published by the Bureau include reports on the most common primary offenses committed by imprisoned inmates, inmate population by primary offense, and the per diem cost of each inmate.²³¹ Reports and statistics are updated on a yearly basis and the reports are publicly accessible; however, users are only able to download and view these reports.²³² Users cannot search the data DOC collects to create the reports.

Criminal Conflict Regional Counsel

The Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel (regional counsel’s office) serves indigent clients who are entitled by law to taxpayer-funded legal representation in criminal or civil cases. The office of the public defender represents indigent criminal defendants. However, if the office determines that it cannot represent a defendant because of a conflict of interest, it must move the court to withdraw as counsel. If the court grants the motion, it will appoint the regional counsel’s office to represent the client.

There are five regional counsel offices, one in each district of the district courts of appeal. Each regional counsel’s office is headed by a regional counsel and includes several assistant regional counsel. Each regional counsel is appointed by the Governor to a four-year term, subject to Senate confirmation, from a list of nominees provided by the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission.

Justice Administrative Commission

The Justice Administrative Commission (JAC), created in 1965, provides administrative services on behalf of 49 judicial related offices (JROs), including the offices of state attorney and public defender, the offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel and Capital Collateral Regional Counsel, and the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Program. The JAC provides accounting, budget, financial, and human resources services. The JAC also provides compliance and financial review of billings for services provided by private court-appointed attorneys representing indigent citizens and associated due process vendors.

The JAC is comprised of two state attorneys, appointed by the President of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, and two public defenders, appointed by the President of the Florida Public Defender Association, and is led by an Executive Director. As part of its service, the JAC maintains a registry of private attorneys willing to represent indigent clients in criminal court if the public defender and the office of criminal conflict regional counsel is unable to do so due to a conflict of interest.

Effect of the Bill – Criminal Justice Data Transparency

Data Definitions (Effective upon becoming a law)

CS/HB 7125 amends s. 900.05, F.S., to define new data elements and revise existing ones, and assigns each new data element to be collected and reported by certain state agencies or local offices or entities. The bill defines the following:

- “Annual felony conflict caseload” means the total number of felony cases the public defender or office of regional counsel has withdrawn from in the previous calendar year.

²³⁰ *Id.*

²³¹ Florida Department of Corrections, *Quick Facts about the Florida Department of Corrections*, December 2017.

²³² Florida Department of Corrections, *Index to Statistics & Publications*.

- "Annual misdemeanor conflict caseload" means the total number of misdemeanor cases the public defender or office of regional conflict counsel has withdrawn from in the previous calendar year.
- "Charge disposition" means the final adjudication for each charged crime, including but not limited to dismissal by state attorney, dismissal by judge, acquittal, no contest plea, guilty plea, or guilty finding at trial.
- "Habitual violent offender flag" means an indication that a defendant is a habitual violent offender as defined in s. 775.084, F.S.
- "Prison releasee reoffender flag" means an indication that the defendant is a prison releasee reoffender as defined in s. 775.084, F.S., or any other statute.
- "Tentative release date" means the anticipated date that an inmate will be released from incarceration after the application of adjustments for any gain-time earned or credit for time served.
- "Three-time violent felony offender flag" means an indication that the defendant is a three-time violent felony offender as defined in s. 775.084, F.S., or any other statute.
- "Violent career criminal flag" means an indication that the defendant is a violent career criminal flag as defined in s. 775.084, F.S., or any other statute.

Data Collection—Justice Administrative Counsel and Criminal Regional Conflict Counsel

Section 900.05, F.S., centralizes the majority of criminal justice data by requiring the clerks of court, state attorneys, public defenders, administrators of county detention facilities, and DOC to collect specific data and transmit it to FDLE on a monthly basis. The bill requires JAC and each office of criminal regional conflict counsel to report the following data elements:

- JAC must collect the following data:
 - Number of private registry contract attorneys representing indigent adult defendants.
 - Annual felony caseload.
 - Annual misdemeanor caseload.
- Each office of criminal regional conflict counsel must report the following data:
 - Number of full-time and part-time assistant regional conflict counsel handling criminal cases.
 - Number of contract attorneys representing indigent adult defendants.
 - Annual felony caseload assigned to contract attorneys.
 - Annual misdemeanor caseload assigned to contract attorneys.
 - Annual felony and misdemeanor conflict caseload.
 - Annual felony and misdemeanor caseload declined or not accepted by criminal regional conflict counsel due to lack of qualified assistant regional conflict counsel or excessive caseload.

The bill revises several existing data element definitions, reflecting input and suggestions from FDLE, reporting agencies, and other stakeholders, to ensure accurate and comprehensive criminal justice data collection. The following are revised data definitions:

- "Annual felony caseload" and "annual misdemeanor caseload" must be reported by the criminal regional conflict counsel, and must be calculated at the end of the fiscal year and reported once at the beginning of the next fiscal year.
- "Case number" means the uniform case number assigned to a criminal case. The prior definition required the clerk of court to assign an identification case number. The uniform case number is a more standardized number that conveys additional information, such as the county where the case filed, and can be tracked across courts.

The bill requires the clerk of court to report the charge disposition for each criminal case. It also requires the clerk to collect and report following additional information:

- Charge disposition and disposition type.
- For a formal charge against a defendant, qualification for the following designations:
 - Habitual violent felony offender flag.
 - Prison releasee reoffender flag.
 - Three-time violent felony offender flag.
 - Violent career criminal flag.
- Deferred prosecution or pretrial diversion hearing dates.
- Sentence type and length, in years, months, and days.
- Tentative release date of an offender.

The bill requires the state attorney to collect and report the deferred prosecution or pretrial diversion agreement data. It requires both the state attorney and public defender to collect and report the number of felony and misdemeanors cases in which each is conflicted out from participating in the case.

The bill requires a county detention facility to report identifying information for each inmate, including name, date of birth, race, ethnicity, gender, and the identification number assigned by the facility. DOC is required to collect each inmate's gender, highest education level, and the date he or she was incarcerated for the current term of incarceration.

Lastly, the bill requires the DOC to report, for each inmate, the digitized sentencing scoresheet prepared in accordance with s. 921.0024, F.S.

Noncompliance

Section 900.05, F.S., penalizes a clerk of court and a county detention facility that fails to collect and report data to FDLE. A clerk or facility that does not comply with the collection and reporting requirements is ineligible for state appropriations and any state grant program administered by FDLE or any other state agency for five years after the date of noncompliance. The bill applies the penalties to any reporting agency, including a state attorney, a public defender, DOC, JAC, and criminal regional conflict counsel, that fails to collect and report data to FDLE under the law.

Confidentiality

The bill confirms that all information collected by a reporting agency that is confidential and exempt when it is collected remains confidential and exempt when it is reported to FDLE under s. 900.05, F.S., and maintained by FDLE under s. 943.6871, F.S.

Data Reporting by FDLE

Section 900.05(4), F.S., requires FDLE to make publicly available all data received from reporting agencies by July 1, 2019. The bill extends the publishing date to January 1, 2020 to give FDLE and the reporting agency additional time to establish the database and make preparation to transmit and receive data as required under the law.

Uniform Arrest Affidavit and Uniform Crosswalk Tables

The bill requires FDLE to assist the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Systems Council to develop specifications by October 1, 2019, for a uniform arrest affidavit (to be used by each state, county, and municipal law enforcement agency), uniform criminal charge and disposition statute crosswalk table (to be used by each law enforcement agency, state attorney, and jail administrator),

and a uniform criminal disposition and sentencing statute crosswalk table (to be used by each clerk of court). The uniform arrest affidavit must include, at a minimum, the following:

- Identification of the arrestee;
- Details of the arrest, including each charge;
- Details of each vehicle and item seized at the time of the arrest;
- Juvenile arrestee information; and
- Release information.

By January 1, 2020, subject to appropriation, FDLE must procure the uniform arrest affidavit and crosswalk tables. Following procurement and prior to implementation, the department must provide training to each law enforcement agency, clerk of court, state attorney, and jail administrator on using the affidavit and crosswalk tables, as appropriate.

By July 1, 2020, each law enforcement agency, clerk of court, state attorney, and jail administrator must use the uniform arrest affidavit and crosswalk tables, as applicable.

Community Courts

Background

Problem-Solving Courts in Florida

Problem-solving courts are specialized, non-traditional courts addressing the underlying causes of crime to reduce recidivism and promote rehabilitation. Florida created the first drug court, a type of problem-solving court, in the United States in Miami-Dade County in 1989.²³³ Today, Florida has over 170 problem-solving courts.²³⁴

Another type of problem-solving court is the community court, which typically focuses on crimes that plague a local community. These courts provide non-adversarial interactions and seek to build relationships in the community, addressing each defendant individually, with the goals of addressing the underlying causes of crime, reducing recidivism, and promoting rehabilitation. A community court may require a participant to agree to a list of possible sanctions for failure to comply with the program, including jail-based treatment programs or terms of secured detention or incarceration.²³⁵

On January 9, 2019, Fort Lauderdale launched a new community court program,²³⁶ focusing particularly on minor crimes committed by the local homeless population, including loitering, panhandling, and ordinance violations. The program aims to reduce the number of people arrested and sent to jail for minor crimes. Other program goals include addressing the underlying causes of homelessness, preventing crime, and diverting participants to social services.²³⁷

Effect of the Bill - Community Courts

CS/HB 7125 allows each judicial circuit to establish a community court program for defendants charged with certain misdemeanors. The chief judge of the circuit must issue an administrative order specifying

²³³ FLA. STATE COURTS, *Problem-Solving Courts*, <https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Improvement/Problem-Solving-Courts> (last visited May 10, 2019).

²³⁴ *Id.*

²³⁵ S. 397.334(5), F.S.

²³⁶ Brittany Wallman, *Fort Lauderdale Launches Florida's First Homeless Community Court*, SUN SENTINEL (Jan. 9, 2019), <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fort-lauderdale/fl-ne-homeless-court-fort-lauderdale-20190107-story.html> (last visited May 10, 2019).

²³⁷ Caitie Switalski, *Social Services, Not Jail: New Community Court Seeks to Address Causes of Homelessness in Broward*, WLRN (Jan. 9, 2019), <http://www.wlrn.org/post/social-services-not-jail-new-community-court-seeks-address-causes-homelessness-broward> (last visited May 10, 2019).

the misdemeanor offenses to be addressed by the community court. In determining which offenses to include, the chief judge must consider the needs and concerns of the communities within the circuit. This allows each judicial circuit to adapt its community court to its own particular needs. State government agencies involved in the criminal justice system are required to support community court programs, and entry into the program is voluntary for defendants.

The bill requires each community court to:

- Adopt a non-adversarial approach;
- Establish an advisory committee to make recommendations in each case;
- Consider the needs of the victim;
- Consider individualized treatment services for the defendant;
- Provide for judicial leadership and interaction; and
- Monitor each defendant's compliance with the program.

Additionally, each community court must have a resource coordinator appointed by the chief judge. The resource coordinator must:

- Coordinate the participating agencies and service providers;
- Provide case management services;
- Monitor defendants' compliance with the program; and
- Manage data collection.

Each community court must also have an advisory committee selected by the chief judge and consisting of, at a minimum:

- The chief judge or a judge designated by the chief judge (serving as chair);
- The state attorney or a designee;
- The public defender or a designee; and
- The resource coordinator.

The chief judge may appoint additional committee members, including community stakeholders, treatment representatives, or any other persons the chair deems appropriate. The advisory committee reviews each case and makes recommendations to the judge for appropriate sanctions and treatment solutions, but the judge has final decision-making authority on sentencing.

The bill requires each judicial circuit to report certain data to the Office of State Courts Administrator to evaluate the community court program. A circuit choosing to establish a community court must fund the program with sources other than state funds, except for costs already assumed by the state under s. 29.004, F.S.²³⁸ Funds provided by executive branch agencies for treatment and other services may also be used.

Youthful Offender Sentencing

Background

Cognitive Development in Young People

Scientific studies have revealed that the brain does not reach full maturity until a person's early 20's.²³⁹ Specifically, the executive functions of impulse control, response inhibition, planning ahead, risk

²³⁸ The general overhead costs of running the court system (including providing for judges, jurors, court facilities, court administrators, and other needs) are funded from state revenues appropriated by general law.

²³⁹ American Bar Association Juvenile Justice Center, *Adolescence, Brain Development, and Legal Culpability* (Jan. 2004), https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publishing/criminal_justice_section_newsletter/crimjust_juvjus_Adolescence.authcheckdam.pdf (last visited May 10, 2019); Malcolm Ritter and Associated Press, *Experts link teen brains' immaturity, juvenile crime*, ABC News <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=3943187&page=1> (last visited May 10, 2019).

avoidance, emotional regulation, and foreseeing consequences are among the last to develop cognitively.²⁴⁰ Immaturity in the development of these functions suggests decreased culpability for criminal conduct. Research further indicates that youth respond more favorably to rehabilitative efforts than adults.²⁴¹

Relying on scientific research in this field, the United States Supreme Court has held the following to be unconstitutional:

- Executing a person for a crime committed prior to reaching age 18.²⁴²
- Sentencing a person to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for a crime committed prior to reaching age 18.²⁴³

Youthful Offender Sentencing

A court may sentence a person as a youthful offender in certain circumstances. Youthful offender sentencing supersedes all other sentencing requirements under Florida law,²⁴⁴ including:

- Sentencing guidelines.
- A minimum mandatory sentence.²⁴⁵
- The prohibition on withholding adjudication of guilt for a first degree felony.²⁴⁶

A person is eligible for sentencing as a youthful offender if he or she:

- Is at least 18 years old or has been transferred to circuit court to be treated like an adult.
- Is found guilty of or pleas to a felony.
- Is younger than 21 years old at the time of sentencing.
- Has not been previously classified as a youthful offender.
- Has not been found guilty of a capital or life felony.²⁴⁷

In 2008, the Legislature changed the calculation of the youthful offender age threshold from the age at the time the offense was committed to the age at the time the sentence is imposed.²⁴⁸ In *Jackson v. State*, the Florida Supreme Court upheld this structure against an equal protection challenge, reasoning:

By requiring that a defendant be sentenced before the age of 21 in order to be eligible for youthful offender sentencing, section 958.04(1)(b) ensures that defendants entering the program are truly youthful. It also ensures that defendants eligible for the program will complete their sentence without being exposed to more experienced and sophisticated criminals during their

²⁴⁰ *Id.*; Brief of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry as *Amici Curiae*, at 16, *Graham v. Florida*, 560 U.S. 48 (2012).

²⁴¹ Malcolm Ritter and Associated Press, *Experts link teen brains' immaturity, juvenile crime*, ABC News <https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/story?id=3943187&page=1> (last visited May 10, 2019).

²⁴² *Roper v. Simmons*, 543 U.S. 551, 569 (2005) (“[A]s any parent knows and as the scientific and sociological studies respondent and his amici cite tend to confirm, a lack of maturity and an underdeveloped sense of responsibility are found in youth more often than in adults and are more understandable among the young. These qualities often result in impetuous and ill-considered actions and decisions.”).

²⁴³ *Graham v. Florida*, 560 U.S. 48, 68 (2010) (“[D]evelopments in psychology and brain science continue to show fundamental differences between juvenile and adult minds. For example, parts of the brain involved in behavior control continue to mature through late adolescence. Juveniles are more capable of change than are adults, and their actions are less likely to be evidence of irretrievably depraved character than are the actions of adults.”); *Miller v. Alabama*, 567 U.S. 460 (2012).

²⁴⁴ S. 958.04(2), F.S.

²⁴⁵ *Eustache v. State*, 199 So. 3d 484 (Fla. 4th DCA 2016).

²⁴⁶ *Pacheco-Velasquez v. State*, 208 So. 3d 293 (Fla. 3d DCA 2016); s. 775.08435, F.S.

²⁴⁷ S. 958.04(1), F.S.

²⁴⁸ Laws 2008, c. 2008-250, § 7, eff. Oct. 1, 2008.

incarceration. Because the statute bears a rational relationship to this legitimate government objective, it does not violate equal protection.²⁴⁹

A court may sentence a youthful offender to a maximum sentence of six years,²⁵⁰ except that it may not exceed the statutory maximum for the offense.²⁵¹ The sentence may include up to six years of:

- Supervision on probation or community control, with or without an adjudication of guilt.²⁵²
- Supervision on probation or community control that includes a period of incarceration up to 364 days in a county detention facility, probation or restitution center, or community residential center as a condition of supervision.²⁵³
- A split sentence wherein the youthful offender is to be placed on probation or community control upon completing any specified period of incarceration.²⁵⁴ If the incarceration period is to be served in a DOC facility other than a probation and restitution center or community residential facility the term of imprisonment must be greater than one year but four years or less.²⁵⁵
- Imprisonment.²⁵⁶
- A county-operated boot camp program.²⁵⁷

A court may sentence a youthful offender who subsequently violates probation or community control up to the statutory maximum sentence for the offense if the violation is substantive,²⁵⁸ meaning that the person committed a new crime.²⁵⁹ However, if the violation is technical, which is a violation of a rule of probation rather than a separate criminal act,²⁶⁰ a court may only sentence the person for up to six years,²⁶¹ including any credit for time served.²⁶²

Housing Requirements for Youthful Offenders

DOC must house a youthful offender²⁶³ in specially designated institutions and programs,²⁶⁴ subject to the following exceptions for a youthful offender who is 18 or older who:

- Is convicted of a new felony crime;
- Becomes a serious management or disciplinary problem due to serious violations of department rules such that his or her original assignment is detrimental to the interests of the program and other inmates;
- Needs medical treatment, health services, or other specialized treatment not available at the youthful offender facility;
- Needs to be transferred outside of the state correctional system for services not provided by DOC; or
- Is to go to a community residential facility but there is no bed space available in a community residential facility designated for youthful offenders.²⁶⁵

²⁴⁹ 191 So. 3d 423, 427-28 (Fla. 2014).

²⁵⁰ S. 958.04(2), F.S.

²⁵¹ *Gross v. State*, 720 So. 2d 578 (Fla. 1st DCA 1998) (court could not sentence a defendant to six years as a youthful offender for a third degree felony, which is punishable by up to five years).

²⁵² S. 958.04(2)(a), F.S.

²⁵³ S. 958.04(2)(b), F.S.

²⁵⁴ S. 958.04(2)(c), F.S.

²⁵⁵ *Id.*

²⁵⁶ S. 958.04(2)(d), F.S.

²⁵⁷ S. 958.046, F.S.

²⁵⁸ S. 958.14, F.S.

²⁵⁹ *West v. State*, 129 So. 3d 1155, 1156 (Fla. 3d DCA 2014).

²⁶⁰ *Id.*, *Swilley v. State*, 781 So. 2d 458, 460 (Fla. 2d DCA 2001).

²⁶¹ Or the statutory maximum, whichever is shorter.

²⁶² S. 958.14, F.S.

²⁶³ Institutions specially designated to house youthful offenders are Sumter Correctional Institution, Sumter Basic Training Unit, Suwannee Correctional Institution, Lowell Correctional Institution and Basic Training Unit, and Lake City Correctional Facility. R. 33-601.223, F.A.C.

²⁶⁴ S. 958.11(1), F.S.

Youthful Offender Basic Training

DOC must maintain a youthful offender basic training program, which includes marching drills, calisthenics, a rigid dress code, manual labor assignments, physical training with obstacle courses, training in decision-making and personal development, high school equivalency diploma and adult basic education courses, and drug and other rehabilitation programs.²⁶⁶ The department screens youthful offenders for eligibility for the basic training program, who have:

- No physical limitation precluding participation in strenuous activity;
- No impairment; and
- Never previously been incarcerated in a state or federal correctional facility.²⁶⁷

DOC must obtain approval from the sentencing court for a youthful offender to participate in the basic training program.²⁶⁸ A participant in the youthful offender basic training program must serve a minimum of 120 days in the program.²⁶⁹ Upon a youthful offender's successful completion of the basic training program, the court must modify the sentence and place the youthful offender on probation.²⁷⁰

Effect of the Bill - Youthful Offender Sentencing

CS/HB 7125 authorizes a court to sentence a person meeting all other criteria as a youthful offender if he or she was 21 or younger at the time the offense was committed. The bill puts no limits on when a person must be sentenced as a youthful offender, if he or she committed the crime while 21 years old or younger.

Juvenile Civil Citation and Prevention Web

Background

Civil Citation

Florida first adopted a civil citation program for juveniles in 1990.²⁷¹ Civil citation programs divert youth from traditional channels of prosecution, and upon successful completion of specified program requirements, give the youth an opportunity to avoid a criminal history record. In 2018, the Legislature passed SB 1392, which made significant changes to expand the use of civil citation in Florida.

The bill required each judicial circuit to establish a juvenile civil citation or similar prearrest diversion program for misdemeanor offenses through the collaboration of the state attorney, public defender, clerk of court for each county in the circuit, and representatives of participating law enforcement agencies in the circuit. The bill required the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to develop and provide guidelines for the best practice models for civil citation programs to use as a resource in developing and refining circuit-wide programs. The bill allowed a county or local agency to opt out of the program.

The bill required the state attorney to operate the program; however, if a sheriff, police department, county, municipality, or public or private education institution had an independent program in operation as of October 1, 2018, it could continue to operate its program with the approval of the state attorney.

²⁶⁵ S. 958.11(3), F.S.

²⁶⁶ S. 958.045(1), F.S.

²⁶⁷ S. 958.045(2), F.S.

²⁶⁸ *Id.*

²⁶⁹ S. 958.045(1), F.S.

²⁷⁰ S. 958.04(2)(c), F.S.

²⁷¹ Ch. 90-209, Laws of Fla.

Prevention Web

SB 1392 also required DJJ to input the information of a juvenile who is brought to a Juvenile Assessment Center on a first-time misdemeanor charge into the Juvenile Justice Information System Prevention Web (Prevention Web), pending formal charges. If a juvenile is referred to a diversionary program in lieu of formal charges, the information remains in Prevention Web. However, if the state opts to pursue formal charges, the information may be input into the standard Juvenile Justice Information System.

Effect of the Bill- Juvenile Civil Citation and Prevention Web *(Effective upon becoming a law)*

The bill add a locally authorized entity to the entities authorized to continue operating a juvenile civil citation or similar prearrest program already in operation as of October 1, 2018, with the approval of the state attorney. The change updates s. 985.12, F.S., to reflect current practices. The bill changes the entity responsible for inputting a juvenile's information into Prevention Web from DJJ to the civil citation or similar prearrest diversion program into which the youth has been admitted for participation. The program is required to enter the information into Prevention Web within 7 days of the youth's admission into the program. This change reflects input from stakeholders following the implementation of the 2018 legislation.

Victim Compensation Claims

Background

Recognizing the need for governmental assistance to crime victims, the Legislature enacted the Florida Crimes Compensation Act (Act)²⁷² directing the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) to establish a Crime Victims' Services Office (CVSO) to provide aid, care, and support to crime victims.²⁷³ Some services available to a crime victim include funds for property loss, relocation services, reimbursement for mental health counseling, and initial forensic physical examinations.

The Act defines a "victim" as a person:²⁷⁴

- Suffering personal physical injury or death directly resulting from a crime;
- Under 18 years of age suffering from a psychiatric or psychological injury as a result of witnessing a crime;
- Under 18 years of age victimized by felony or misdemeanor child abuse resulting in a mental injury;²⁷⁵
- Victimized by a forcible felony suffering from a psychiatric or psychological injury directly resulting from the crime; or
- Employed as an emergency responder killed while responding to a call for service in the line of duty.

²⁷² Ss. 960.01–960.28, F.S.

²⁷³ Ss. 960.02, 960.045, and 960.05, F.S.

²⁷⁴ Ss. 960.03(14)(a)–(e), F.S.

²⁷⁵ "Mental injury" means injury to the intellectual or psychological capacity of a child as evidenced by a discernible and substantial impairment in the ability of the child to function within the normal range of performance and behavior as supported by expert testimony. S. 827.03, F.S.

The Act defines “crime” as:²⁷⁶

- A felony or misdemeanor offense resulting in physical injury or death;
- A forcible felony directly resulting in psychiatric or psychological injury;
- Felony or misdemeanor child abuse resulting in mental injury to a person under 18 years old;
- A criminal act committed in Florida but falling exclusively within federal jurisdiction;
- An act resulting in physical injury or death during the operation of a motor vehicle, boat, or aircraft;²⁷⁷
- A violation relating to online sexual exploitation or child pornography;²⁷⁸
- A felony or misdemeanor resulting in an emergency responder’s death; and
- A criminal act committed outside of Florida, victimizing a Florida resident, which would be compensable if it occurred within the state, and compensation is not available in that jurisdiction.

Award Eligibility

A person may receive an award pursuant to the Act if the person is:

- A victim;
- An intervener;
- A surviving spouse, parent or guardian, sibling, or child of a deceased victim or intervener; or
- Any other person who is dependent for his or her principal support upon a deceased victim or intervener.

However, a person is not eligible to receive an award if the person:²⁷⁹

- Committed or aided in the commission of the crime upon which the compensation claim is based;
- Was engaged in an unlawful activity at the time of the crime upon which the compensation claim is based, unless the victim was engaged in prostitution as a result of being a victim of human trafficking;
- Was in custody or confined, regardless of conviction, in a county or municipal detention facility, a state or federal correctional facility, or a juvenile detention or commitment facility at the time of the crime upon which the compensation claim is based;
- Has been adjudicated as a habitual felony offender, habitual violent offender, or violent career criminal; or
- Has been adjudicated guilty of a forcible felony offense.

Section 960.07, F.S., establishes time frames within which a compensation claim must be filed. A claim must be filed within one year after the:

- Date a crime occurs;
- Victim’s or intervener’s death; or
- Determination that the death of the victim or intervener is a result of a crime, and the crime occurred after June 30, 1994.

However, for good cause, the DLA may extend the time for a period not exceeding two years.

²⁷⁶ Ss. 960.03(3)(a)–(f), F.S.

²⁷⁷ Including leaving the scene of a crash involving death or personal injury (s. 316.027(2), F.S.); driving under the influence (s. 316.193, F.S.); fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer (s. 316.1935, F.S.); boating under the influence (s. 327.35(1), F.S.); first degree felony vehicular homicide (s. 782.071(1)(b), F.S.); and operating an aircraft under the influence (s. 860.13(1)(a), F.S.).

²⁷⁸ Including sexual performance by a child (s. 827.071, F.S.); child pornography, other prohibited computer usage, and traveling to meet a minor (s. 847.0135, F.S.); electronic transmission of child pornography (s. 847.0137, F.S.); and electronic transmission of harmful material to a minor (s. 847.0138, F.S.).

²⁷⁹ S. 960.065, F.S.

If a person is under 18 years old when victimized by a crime, a claim may be filed at any time not exceeding one year after the victim reaches 18 years old. For good cause, the DLA may extend the filing period for an additional period not exceeding one year.

A sexual violence victim²⁸⁰ may file a claim for counseling compensation or other mental health services within one year after a petition is filed to civilly commit the offender as a sexually violent predator.²⁸¹

To receive an award, a victim must report the crime to a proper authority within 72 hours, unless DLA finds a delay was justified.²⁸² However, a human trafficking victim must report the crime and file a claim within one year, or two years with good cause, after the last date the human trafficking offense occurred. If a case exceeds the two year requirement due to an ongoing investigation, a specified authority may certify in writing the victim's need to relocate from an unsafe environment.

Under the Act, the maximum amount the CVSO can pay for an initial forensic physical examination of a sexual battery or lewd and lascivious offense victim is \$500, and a medical provider must accept this amount as payment in full. Payment is available regardless of whether a victim is insured or cooperates with law enforcement or the criminal prosecution of a perpetrator.²⁸³

The maximum payment for initial forensic exams was last adjusted in 2007, when the maximum payment increased from \$250 to \$500.²⁸⁴ The current maximum payment amount covers less than half of the average cost of an initial forensic exam, which is approximately \$1,150.²⁸⁵

Effect of the Bill - Victim Compensation Claims

CS/HB 7125 increases the time periods within which a claim for victim assistance arising from a crime committed on or after October 1, 2019, may be filed, as follows:

- A claim must be filed within three years after a crime occurs, a victim or intervener dies, or a determination that the crime caused the victim's or intervener's death.
 - For good cause, the DLA may extend the filing deadline for a period not exceeding five years after the crime's occurrence.
- A victim under 18 years old at the time of a crime may file a claim at any time not exceeding three years after the victim reaches 18 years old.
 - For good cause, the DLA may extend the filing deadline for an additional period not exceeding two years.
- A sexual violence victim may file a claim for counseling compensation or other mental health services within three years after a petition is filed to civilly commit the offender as a sexually violent predator.
- To receive an award, a victim must report the crime to a proper authority within five days, unless DLA finds a delay was justified.
 - However, a human trafficking victim must report the crime and file a claim within three years, or five years with good cause, after the date of the most recent human trafficking offense.

²⁸⁰ As defined in s. 394.912, F.S.

²⁸¹ "Sexually violent predator" means any person who has been convicted of a sexually violent offense and suffers from a mental abnormality or personality disorder that makes the person likely to engage in acts of sexual violence if not confined in a secure facility for long-term control, care, and treatment. S. 394.912(10), F.S.

²⁸² Ss. 960.13 and 960.195, F.S.

²⁸³ S. 960.28(2), F.S.

²⁸⁴ Ch. 2007-129, Laws of Fla.

²⁸⁵ Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, *Florida Statewide Sexual Assault Response Team SFY 2015-2016 Recommendations*, <https://www.fcasv.org/sites/default/files/Florida%20Statewide%20SART%20Advisory%20Committee%202015-16%20Final%20Recommendations.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

- If a case exceeds the five year requirement due to an ongoing investigation, a specified authority may certify in writing the victim's need to relocate from an unsafe environment.

The bill also increases the maximum payment to medical providers for initial forensic physical examinations from \$500 to \$1,000.

Direct Filing of Juvenile Offenders

Background

The juvenile delinquency system focuses on treating and rehabilitating children who violate criminal laws. Children in the delinquency system may complete a civil citation or diversion program,²⁸⁶ probationary sentence, or be committed to one of the Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) commitment programs.²⁸⁷ The juvenile process is less harsh than the adult court process; for example:

- A judge decides the facts in a juvenile adjudicatory hearing rather than a jury;²⁸⁸
- Juveniles are not subject to monetary bail;²⁸⁹ and
- Probation may only last until age 19, and commitment until age 21.²⁹⁰

A child may be transferred to adult court through one of three ways:

- Judicial waiver, in which the court transfers the child upon the state's motion after holding a waiver hearing;²⁹¹
- Direct file, in which the state attorney files an information to transfer the child;²⁹² or
- Indictment, in which the grand jury charges the child by indictment for a capital offense or offense punishable by life in prison.²⁹³

²⁸⁶ Ss. 985.12, 985.125, 985.15, 985.155, and 985.16, F.S.

²⁸⁷ S. 985.433, F.S.

²⁸⁸ S. 985.35, F.S.

²⁸⁹ S. 985.245, F.S.

²⁹⁰ S. 985.0301, F.S.

²⁹¹ S. 985.556, F.S.

²⁹² S. 985.557, F.S.

²⁹³ S. 985.56, F.S.

Direct file accounts for 98 percent of juvenile transfers to adult court.²⁹⁴ Direct filing of an information may be mandated by law or done at the state attorney's discretion as follows:

Mandatory	Discretionary
Child was 16 or 17 when he or she committed a violent offense and has previously been adjudicated for an enumerated offense. ²⁹⁵	Child was 14 or 15 when he or she committed an enumerated offense. ²⁹⁶
Child was 16 or 17 when he or she committed a forcible felony and has previously been adjudicated or had adjudication withheld for three felonies occurring at least 45 days apart, unless the state has good cause to believe exceptional circumstances exist to leave the case in juvenile court.	
Child is charged with stealing a motor vehicle, and the driver of the vehicle caused serious bodily injury or death to a person not involved in stealing the vehicle while the child was in possession of the vehicle.	Child was 16 or 17 when he or she committed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A felony offense; or • A misdemeanor, if the child has two prior adjudications or withheld adjudications, one of which is a felony.
Child was 16 or 17 when he or she committed a 10/20/Life ²⁹⁷ offense, meaning the child used or possessed a firearm in the commission of a violent felony or drug trafficking.	

A child transferred to adult court is treated like an adult in most ways. With the exception of the death penalty and a life sentence without the possibility of parole,²⁹⁸ a child faces the same exposure to penalty as an adult. A court may, however, sentence a child prosecuted as an adult to juvenile sanctions.²⁹⁹ The adult court procedural rules apply, including trial by jury.

Total adult court transfers decreased 62 percent since FY 2010-11.³⁰⁰ Mandatory direct filed cases account for a larger percentage of adult transfers than in FY 2010-11, as prosecutors have used discretionary direct file less frequently.³⁰¹

Effect of the Bill - Direct Filing of Juvenile Offenders

CS/HB 7125 repeals all mandatory direct file provisions. Under the bill, a state attorney may direct file an information against a child who qualifies for discretionary direct file by:

- Committing an enumerated offense as a 14 or 15 year old;

²⁹⁴ Department of Juvenile Justice, *Update on Transfer to Adult Court Trends in Florida* (Jan. 9, 2018), at 16.

²⁹⁵ Enumerated offenses are commission of, attempt to commit, or conspiracy to commit murder, sexual battery, armed or strong-armed robbery, carjacking, home-invasion robbery, aggravated battery, or aggravated assault. S. 985.557, F.S.

²⁹⁶ Enumerated offenses are the commission of, attempt to commit, or conspiracy to commit arson; sexual battery; robbery; kidnapping; aggravated child abuse; aggravated assault; aggravated stalking; murder; manslaughter; unlawfully throwing, placing, or discharging a destructive device or bomb; armed burglary; burglary of a dwelling with aggravating circumstances; burglary with a battery; aggravated battery; lewd or lascivious offense on a person younger than 16; carrying, displaying, using, or threatening to use a weapon or firearm during the commission of a felony; grand theft with aggravating circumstances; possessing or discharging a weapon on school property; home invasion robbery; carjacking; or grand theft of a motor vehicle under certain circumstances. S. 985.557(1)(a), F.S.

²⁹⁷ S. 775.087, F.S.

²⁹⁸ *Roper v. Simmons*, 543 U.S. 551 (2005); *Graham v. Florida*, 560 U.S. 48 (2010); *Miller v. Alabama*, 567 U.S. 460 (2012).

²⁹⁹ S. 985.565, F.S.

³⁰⁰ Department of Juvenile Justice, *supra*, at 17.

³⁰¹ Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *Direct File of Children to Adult Court is Decreasing; Better Data Needed to Assess Sanctions*, Report No. 17-07 (Mar. 2017), <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1706rpt.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

- Committing a felony as a 16 or 17 year old; or
- Committing a misdemeanor with certain prior offenses.

The bill does not change the judicial waiver or indictment transfer methods.

Sexually Violent Predator Program Criminal History Records Access

Background

Federal Criminal History Record Information Databases

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) administers the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database, containing information on persons subject to civil protection orders and arrest warrants, and the Interstate Identification Index (III), containing criminal history record information (CHRI). Under federal regulation, CHRI from the NCIC/III-databases is made available to criminal justice agencies for criminal justice purposes.³⁰² The exchange of CHRI between the federal government and states, however, is subject to cancellation if disseminated to unintended recipients.³⁰³

The National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact defines:

- “Criminal justice agency” as:
 - A court, and
 - A governmental agency or any subunit thereof that:
 - Performs the administration of criminal justice pursuant to statute or executive order; and
 - Allocates a substantial part of its annual budget to the administration of criminal justice.
- “Criminal justice” as activities relating to detection, apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal offenders.³⁰⁴

Sexually Violent Predator Program

A sexually violent predator is a person who has been convicted of a sexually violent offense³⁰⁵ and has a mental abnormality or personality disorder that makes them likely to engage in future acts of sexual violence if not confined to a secure facility for long-term control, care, and treatment.³⁰⁶ To address the treatment needs of these offenders, the Legislature enacted the Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators Act,³⁰⁷ also known as the Ryce Act, in 1998. The Ryce Act creates a civil commitment process for sexually violent predators that is similar to the Baker Act, used to involuntarily

³⁰² 28 C.F.R. § 20.33(a)(1).

³⁰³ 28 C.F.R. § 20.33(b); s. 943.054, F.S.

³⁰⁴ 42 U.S.C. § 14616.

³⁰⁵ Section 394.912(9), F.S., defines the term “sexually violent offense” as:

- Murder of a human being while engaged in sexual battery in violation of s. 782.04(1)(a)2., F.S.;
- Kidnapping or false imprisonment of a child under the age of 13 and, in the course of that offense, committing sexual battery; or a lewd, lascivious, or indecent assault or act upon or in the presence of the child;
- Sexual battery in violation of s. 794.011, F.S.;
- Lewd, lascivious, or indecent assault or act upon or in presence of the child in violation of ss. 800.04 or 847.0135(5), F.S.;
- An attempt, criminal solicitation, or conspiracy, in violation of s. 777.04, F.S., of a sexually violent offense;
- Any conviction for a felony offense in effect at any time before October 1, 1998, which is comparable to a sexually violent offense listed above or any federal conviction or conviction in another state for a felony offense that in this state would be a sexually violent offense; or
- Any criminal act that, either at the time of sentencing for the offense or subsequently during civil commitment proceedings under this part, has been determined beyond a reasonable doubt to have been sexually motivated.

³⁰⁶ S. 394.912(10), F.S.

³⁰⁷ Ch. 394, Part V, F.S.

commit and treat mentally ill persons.³⁰⁸ Under the Ryce Act, offenders convicted of specified sex offenses who are nearing the end of their criminal sentence are referred to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for assessment by a multidisciplinary team (MDT) as to whether the offender meets the clinical definition of a sexually violent predator. After assessment, DCF provides a recommendation to the state attorney.³⁰⁹

Following receipt of DCF's recommendation and supporting information, the state attorney determines whether to file a petition with the circuit court alleging that the offender is a sexually violent predator.³¹⁰ At trial, a judge or jury must determine by clear and convincing evidence that an offender meets the definition of a sexually violent predator.³¹¹ A sexually violent predator must be committed to DCF's custody for:

- Control;
- Care; and
- Treatment.³¹²

To conduct its risk assessment and other functions, the DCF Sexually Violent Predator Program (SVPP) previously had access to the NCIC/III-databases, allowing it to review a person's full criminal history.³¹³ However, an FBI-conducted audit of a Florida sheriff's office concluded that SVPP was not a criminal justice agency and therefore not entitled to access NCIC/III CHRI.³¹⁴ This prevents SVPP from accessing information about out-of-state convictions, which approximately 18 percent of committed sexually violent predators have.³¹⁵

Effect of the Bill - SVPP

The bill adds a statutory mandate for DCF to provide rehabilitation of criminal offenders upon commitment of a sexually violent predator. This causes the SVPP to administer a criminal justice function pursuant to statute and therefore qualify as a criminal justice agency under federal law. As a criminal justice agency, SVPP may access NCIC/III CHRI.

Occupational Licensing

Background

Department of Business and Professional Regulation Umbrella Chapter

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) has 12 divisions that regulate several Florida professions and businesses.³¹⁶ Chapter 455, F.S., applies to the regulation of professions constituting "any activity, occupation, profession, or vocation regulated by DBPR in the Divisions of Certified Public Accounting, Professions, Real Estate, and Regulation."³¹⁷ It also provides

³⁰⁸ Ch. 394, Part I, F.S.

³⁰⁹ *Id.*

³¹⁰ S. 394.914, F.S.

³¹¹ S. 394.917, F.S.

³¹² *Id.*

³¹³ Department of Children and Families, *Sexually Violent Predator Program (SVPP) NCIC Issue Summary* (Mar. 8, 2019).

³¹⁴ *Id.*

³¹⁵ *Id.*

³¹⁶ Section 20.165, F.S. creates the divisions of Administration; Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; Certified Public Accounting; Drugs, Devices, and Cosmetics; Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes; Hotels and Restaurants; Pari-mutuel Wagering; Professions; Real Estate; Regulation; Service Operations; and Technology.

³¹⁷ S. 455.01(6), F.S.

general DBPR powers and sets forth the procedural and administrative framework for all professional DBPR boards housed.³¹⁸

Licensing Determinations and Criminal History

Generally, a state agency may deny an application for professional license, permit, or certification for a prior felony or first-degree misdemeanor conviction that is:

- Directly related to the profession's standards; and
- Reasonably related to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare for the specific profession for which the license, permit, or certificate is sought.³¹⁹

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an agency may not deny an application for a license, permit, certificate, or employment based solely on the applicant's lack of civil rights.³²⁰

DBPR or a licensing board may deny a license application for a person who was convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which relates to the practice of, or the ability to practice, a licensee's profession,³²¹ or for any other reason in the applicable practice act.

Florida law does not prohibit an individual from applying for licensure with DBPR while they are still incarcerated or under some form of supervised release, nor is such an individual charged an additional fee.³²²

Barbers

A barber is regulated by the Barber's Board within DBPR. To be licensed as a barber, a person must:

- Be at least age 16;
- Satisfactorily complete a licensure examination; and
- Pay the required application fee.³²³

In order to be eligible to sit for a licensure examination, a person must have received the required training or held a barber license in another state for at least one year.

"Barbering" includes any of the following practices when done for payment, but not when done for the treatment of a medical condition:

- Shaving;
- Cutting;
- Trimming;
- Coloring;
- Shampooing;
- Arranging, dressing, curling, or waving the hair or beard; or
- Applying oils, creams, lotions, or other preparations to the face, scalp, or neck.³²⁴

The Barbers' Board may deny a barber license application for any violation of s. 455.227, F.S., which authorizes license denial based on a previous conviction related to the practice of, or the ability to

³¹⁸ The DBPR must also provide legal counsel for boards within the DBPR by contracting with the Department of Legal Affairs, by retaining private counsel, or by providing DBPR staff counsel. Ss. 455.203 and 455.221(1), F.S.

³¹⁹ S. 112.011(1)(b), F.S.

³²⁰ S. 112.011(1)(c), F.S.

³²¹ S. 455.227(1)(c), F.S.

³²² Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Agency Analysis of 2018 Senate Bill 1114, p. 2 (Jan. 8, 2018).

³²³ S. 476.114, F.S.

³²⁴ S. 476.034(2), F.S.

practice, a licensee's profession.³²⁵ Fingerprints are not required to be submitted to DBPR for a formal background check for barber license applicants.

Cosmetologists

The Board of Cosmetology governs the licensing and regulation of cosmetologists, hair wrappers, hair braiders, nail specialists, facial specialists, full specialists, body wrappers and related salons.

A cosmetologist is a person licensed to practice cosmetology.³²⁶ Cosmetology is defined as "the mechanical or chemical treatment of the head, face, and scalp for aesthetic rather than medical purposes, including, but not limited to, hair shampooing, hair cutting, hair arranging, hair coloring, permanent waving, and hair relaxing for compensation. This term also includes performing hair removal, including wax treatments, manicures, pedicures, and skin care services."³²⁷

To qualify for a cosmetology license, an applicant must:

- Be at least age 16 or have a high school diploma;
- Submit an application, application fee, and examination fee; and
- Either:
 - Hold a license in another state or country for at least one year; or
 - Take 1,200 hours in cosmetology training and pass the licensure examination.³²⁸

A specialist is a person holding a specialty registration in one or more of the specialties registered under ch. 477, F.S.³²⁹ The term specialty includes performing manicures, pedicures, and/or facials.³³⁰

To qualify for a specialist license, an applicant must:

- Be at least age 16 or have a high school diploma;
- Complete an approved specialty education program; and
- Submit an application and registration fee.³³¹

The Board of Cosmetology may deny a cosmetology license application for any violation of s. 455.227, F.S., which authorizes license denial based on a previous conviction related to the practice of, or the ability to practice, a licensee's profession.³³² Fingerprints are not required to be submitted to DBPR for a formal background check for cosmetology professional license applicants.

Contracting Professionals

The Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB) within DBPR is responsible for licensing and regulating the construction industry.³³³ The CILB is divided into two divisions with separate jurisdictions:

- Division I is comprised of general, building, and residential contractors;
- Division II is comprised of the following types of contractors:
 - Roofing;
 - Sheet metal;
 - Class A, B, and C air-conditioning;
 - Mechanical;
 - Commercial pool and spa;

³²⁵ S. 455.227(1)(c), F.S.

³²⁶ S. 477.013(3), F.S.

³²⁷ S. 477.013(4), F.S.

³²⁸ S. 477.019(2), F.S.

³²⁹ S. 477.013(5), F.S.

³³⁰ S. 477.013(6), F.S.

³³¹ S. 477.0201, F.S.

³³² S. 455.227(1)(c), F.S.

³³³ S. 489.107, F.S.

- Residential pool and spa;
- Swimming pool and spa servicing;
- Plumbing;
- Underground utility and excavation;
- Solar; and
- Pollutant storage systems.

A specialty contractor is one whose scope of work and responsibility is limited to a particular phase of construction as detailed in an administrative rule adopted by the CILB.³³⁴

The Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board (ECLB) within DBPR is responsible for licensing and regulating electrical contractors.³³⁵ Construction contractors and electrical contractors must satisfactorily complete experience and education requirements, and a licensure examination before being licensed.³³⁶

The CILB and the ECLB may deny a license application for any person who it finds guilty of any of the disciplinary grounds in s. 455.227(1), F.S., in the profession's practice act.³³⁷ Specifically, the CILB and ECLB may deny a license application for any person having been convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of, or the ability to practice, a licensee's profession.³³⁸

CILB and ECLB contractors must be of good moral character. In considering good moral character, they may consider any matter, including criminal background, that has a substantial connection to the good moral character of the applicant and the professional responsibilities of such a contractor by clear and convincing evidence.³³⁹

The CILB must consider the length of time since the commission of a crime and the applicant's rehabilitation in denying or approving licensure.³⁴⁰ The CILB may not deny licensure based solely upon a felony conviction or the applicant's failure to provide proof of restoration of civil rights.³⁴¹ For licensing electrical contractors, the ECLB is not specifically required to consider the passage of time between the disqualifying criminal offense and the time of application before denying or granting a license or registration.

Septic Tank Contracting

The Department of Health (DOH) regulates master septic tank contractors and septic tank contractors. A septic tank contractor must:

- Have three years of training;
- Pass an examination; and
- Register with DOH before engaging in the occupation.³⁴²

³³⁴ For example, specialty swimming pool contractors have limited scopes of work for the construction of pools, spas, hot tub, and decorative or interactive water displays. R. 61G4-15.032 (2016), F.A.C.

³³⁵ S. 489.507, F.S.

³³⁶ Ss. 489.113 and 489.516, F.S.

³³⁷ S. 455.227(2), F.S.

³³⁸ Ss. 489.129(1)(b) and 489.553(1)(d), F.S., providing the disciplinary grounds for construction contractors and electrical contractors, respectively.

³³⁹ Ss. 489.111(2)(b), (3)(a) and 489.513(1)(b), (c), F.S.

³⁴⁰ S. 489.115(6), F.S.

³⁴¹ *Id.*

³⁴² Ss. 489.552 and 489.553, F.S.

A master septic tank contractor must:

- Be a registered septic tank contractor or a plumbing contractor; and
- Have provided septic tank contracting services for at least 3 years.

To be eligible for registration, septic tank and master septic tank contractors must be of good moral character. In determining good moral character, DOH may consider any matter, including criminal background, that has a substantial connection between an applicant's good moral character and a registered contractor's professional responsibilities.³⁴³ DOH is not specifically required to consider the passage of time between the disqualifying criminal offense and the time of application before denying or granting a license or registration.

Criminal Offenses

Sexual predator³⁴⁴ registration criteria are described in s. 775.21(4)1, F.S. Criminal offenses that require registration include:³⁴⁵

- A capital, life, or first degree felony for:
 - Kidnapping or false imprisonment, where the victim is a minor and there is a sexual component to the crime;
 - Sexual battery;
 - Lewd or lascivious battery or molestation;
 - Selling or buying minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct;
- An offense that would require registration as a sexual offender, other than transmission of child pornography by electronic device or transmission of material harmful to minors, by a person with a prior conviction for a sexual offense; or
- A conviction for a similar offense committed in another jurisdiction.³⁴⁶

Forcible felonies include:

- Murder;
- Manslaughter;
- Sexual battery;
- Carjacking;
- Home-invasion robbery;
- Robbery;
- Burglary;
- Kidnapping;
- Aggravated assault;
- Aggravated battery; and
- Aggravated stalking.³⁴⁷

Effect of the Bill - Occupational Licensing

The bill amends the licensure application review standards for specified professions or occupations regulated by the DBPR and DOH.

³⁴³ S. 489.553(4)(a), F.S.

³⁴⁴ A sexual predator is someone who has been convicted of a first-degree felony sex crime or has been convicted of two second-degree felony sex crimes within a ten-year period.

³⁴⁵ S. 775.21(4), F.S.

³⁴⁶ Ss. 787.01, 787.02, 847.0145, and 800.04, F.S.

³⁴⁷ S. 776.08, F.S.

The licensing application provisions in the bill apply to the following professions and occupations:

- Septic Tank Contractors;
- Barbers;
- Cosmetologists and cosmetology specialists;
- Construction Professionals;
 - Electrical Contractors;
 - Swimming pool and spa contractors;
 - Sheet metal contractors;
 - Roofing contractors;
 - Air-conditioning contractors;
 - Mechanical contractors;
 - Plumbing contractors;
 - Underground utility and excavation contractors;
 - Solar contractors;
 - Pollutant storage systems contractor; and
 - Other specialty contractors whose scope of work and responsibility is limited to a particular phase of construction, e.g., drywall, glazing, swimming pool excavation, etc.; and
- Any other profession for which the department issues a license, provided the profession is offered to inmates in any correctional facility as vocational training or through an industry certification program.

The bill:

- Limits the period for which an agency may consider criminal history as an impairment to licensure to five years prior to application for applicable professions unless such history:
 - Includes a sexual predator crime or a forcible felony; and
 - Is related to the profession's practice;
- Allows the CILB, ECLB, and DOH to consider a contractor applicant's complete criminal history if it relates to good moral character;
- Permits a person to apply for a license while under criminal confinement (incarceration) or supervision;
- Requires a licensing agency to permit an applicant who is incarcerated or under supervision to appear by teleconference or video conference at a board or agency license application hearing; and
- Requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to cooperate and coordinate with the board or agency to facilitate the applicant's hearing appearance in person, by teleconference, or by video conference.

The bill requires the Barbers' Board, Board of Cosmetology, ECLB, and CILB (boards) to list on DBPR's website the crimes that if committed by an applicant, do not impair a person's qualifications for licensure, and update the list annually. Beginning October 1, 2019, the boards must compile a list of crimes that although reported by an applicant for licensure, were not used as a basis for denial. The list must identify the crime reported and the date of conviction, finding of guilt, plea, or adjudication entered, or the date of sentencing for each such license application.

The bill also requires each agency to identify the crimes that do impair a person's qualifications for licensure. The boards must compile a list of crimes that have been used as a basis for denial of a license in the past 2 years, which shall be made available on DBPR's website. Starting October 1, 2019, and updated quarterly thereafter, the boards must compile a list indicating each crime used as a basis for a license denial. For each crime listed, the board must identify the date of conviction, finding of guilt, plea, or adjudication entered, or date of sentencing. Such denials must be available to the public upon request.

Contractor Fraud

Background

A contractor is a person who takes on a job or submits a bid to construct, repair, alter, remodel, add to, demolish, subtract from, or improve any building or structure for others, or for resale to others, and who has a job scope substantially similar to one or more of those described in s. 489.105(3)(a)-(q), F.S.³⁴⁸ The Construction Industry Contracting Board licenses and regulates contractors within the state.³⁴⁹

A contractor who receives money totaling more than 10 percent of the contract price for repair, restoration, improvement, or construction to residential real property must, unless the buyer or homeowner agreed in writing otherwise:

- Apply for any necessary permits within 30 days after the payment is made,³⁵⁰ and
- Start the work within 90 days after the date all necessary permits are issued.³⁵¹

A contractor who receives money for repair, restoration, addition, improvement, or construction of residential real property exceeding the value of work already performed shall not, with intent to defraud the owner,³⁵² fail or refuses to perform any work for a 90-day period.³⁵³ A court may infer intent to defraud when a contractor:

- Received money in excess of the value of the work already performed;
- Failed to perform work during any 60-day period, and the failure was not due to the owner terminating or materially breaching the contract; and
- Failed to perform work for which he or she contracted for an additional 30-day period after the owner mailed to him or her a notice of failure to perform.³⁵⁴

³⁴⁸ S. 489.105(3), F.S. These job scopes include a: general contractor; building contractor; residential contractor; sheet metal contractor; roofing contractor; class A air-conditioning contractor; class B air-conditioning contractor; class C air-conditioning contractor; mechanical contractor; commercial pool/spa contractor; residential pool/spa contractor; swimming pool/spa servicing contractor; plumbing contractor; underground utility and excavation contractor; solar contractor; pollutant storage systems contractor; and specialty contractor.

³⁴⁹ Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, *Construction Industry*, <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/construction-industry/> (last visited May 10, 2019).

³⁵⁰ S. 489.126(2)(a), F.S.

³⁵¹ S. 489.126(2)(b), F.S.

³⁵² Florida recognizes two basic types of intent crimes: specific intent crimes and general intent crimes. A specific intent crime requires the offender to intend to accomplish a precise, prohibited act. A general intent crime requires the offender to intend to do something unlawful, but the offender does not need to intend the precise harm or result that occurs. See Black's Law Dictionary 47, 559, and 560 (6th ed. 1995). Unless an offender confesses his or her intent, intent must be inferred. See *generally*, David Crump, *What Does Intent Mean*, 38 Hofstra L. R. 1059, https://law.hofstra.edu/pdf/academics/journals/lawreview/lrv_issues_v38n04_cc1_crump_final.pdf (last visited May 10, 2019).

³⁵³ S. 489.126(3)(a), F.S.

³⁵⁴ S. 489.126(3)(b), F.S.

Offense Levels

Contracting fraud offenses are prosecuted under s. 812.014, F.S., and as such, the offense level for a violation depends upon the value of the property taken as follows:

	Property Value	Offense Level
Grand Theft	≥ \$100,000	First Degree Felony ³⁵⁵
	≥ \$20,000, but < \$100,000	Second Degree Felony ³⁵⁶
	≥ \$10,000, but < \$20,000	Third Degree Felony
	≥ \$5,000, but < \$10,000	Third Degree Felony
	≥ \$300, but < \$5,000	Third Degree Felony
Petit Theft	≥ \$100, but < \$300	First Degree Misdemeanor
	< \$100	Second Degree Misdemeanor ³⁵⁷

To commit theft under Florida law a defendant must have the specific intent to commit the crime at the time of, or prior to, the taking.³⁵⁸ However, in contractual cases it is difficult to prove that criminal intent is present at the inception of an agreement.³⁵⁹ Further, courts have found that partial performance of a contract negates criminal intent.³⁶⁰ It may be difficult to prove a contractor charged with construction fraud had the necessary criminal intent at the time he or she entered into the contract, making successful prosecution of construction fraud cases difficult.³⁶¹ This recently became an issue in Charlotte County, Florida, when a contractor accepted money from dozens of consumers to construct new homes.³⁶² These consumers lost their payments when the contractor abruptly closed its doors, leaving many homes unfinished.³⁶³ However, because the contractor claims it merely ran out of money due to the rising cost of supplies after Hurricane Irma in September 2017, proving the requisite intent to defraud at the time of the taking is challenging.³⁶⁴

Effect of the Bill - Contractor Fraud

The bill provides that a contractor who receives money totaling more than 10 percent of the contract price for repair, restoration, improvement, or construction to residential real property must, unless the payor agreed in writing to a longer period or the contractor had just cause for failing to do so:

- Apply for any necessary permits within 30 days after the payment is made; and
- Start the work within 90 days after the date all necessary permits are issued.

³⁵⁵ A first degree felony is punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

³⁵⁶ A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

³⁵⁷ A second degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in county jail and a \$500 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

³⁵⁸ See *Stramaglia v. State*, 603 So. 2d 536, 537-38 (Fla. 4th DCA 1992).

³⁵⁹ See *Adams v. State*, 443 So. 2d 1003 (Fla. 2d DCA 1983).

³⁶⁰ See *Yerrick v. State*, 970 So. 2d 1288 (Fla. 4th DCA 2008).

³⁶¹ The Office of the State Attorney, 20th Judicial Circuit, *Proposal* (2019).

³⁶² Elaine Allen-Emrich, *Rep. Grant, Sen. Albritton Fighting Contractor Fraud*, https://www.yoursun.com/englewood/rep-grant-sen-albritton-fighting-contractor-fraud/article_b47d6dbc-36f0-11e9-b582-df69d65d0465.html (last visited May 10, 2019).

³⁶³ *Id.*

³⁶⁴ *Id.*

The bill permits an inference that a contractor lacked just cause for his or her actions if the contractor failed to apply for the necessary permits, start the work, or refund payments within 30 days of receiving written demand to do so from the payor. Written demand must:

- Be made to the contractor in the form of a letter;
- Include a demand to apply for necessary permits, start the work, or refund payment; and
- Be mailed to the address listed in the contracting agreement or, if none exists, to the address listed with the DBPR for licensing purposes or the local construction industry licensing board, if applicable.

The bill prohibits a contractor who receives payment in excess of the value of work performed from failing to perform work within 90 days or any period mutually agreed upon and specified in the contract; however, the bill removes the requirement that a contractor act with the specific intent to defraud.

Instead, the bill requires the state to prove the:

- Contractor failed to perform any work for 90 days or any period mutually agreed upon and specified in the contract;
- Failure to perform the work was not related to the owner terminating or materially breaching the contract; and
- Contractor failed to perform work without just cause or terminated the contract without proper notice to the owner.

The bill permits an inference that a contractor lacked just cause for his or her failure to perform work for 90 days if the contractor fails to perform work or refund the money in excess of the value of work performed, within 30 days after receiving a written demand to perform the work or refund the money.

Written demand must:

- Be made to the contractor in the form of a letter;
- Include a demand to apply for necessary permits, start the work, or refund payment; and
- Be mailed to the address listed in the contracting agreement or, if none exists, to the address listed with the DBPR for licensing purposes or the local construction industry licensing board, if applicable.

The bill also declares that proper notification of termination must be made by the contractor in the form of a letter that:

- Includes the reason for termination of the contract or for failure to perform;
- Is sent by certified mail, return receipt requested; and
- Is mailed to the last address of the owner in the written contracting agreement, or, if none, to the address where the work was to be performed or the address listed on the permit, if applicable.

The bill provides that:

- The required intent to prove a criminal violation may be shown to exist at the time the contractor appropriated the money to his or her own use and is not required to be proven to exist at the time of the taking of the money or the payment from the owner.
- If the contractor fails to refund any portion of the payment within 30 days after receiving a written demand for such money from the owner, it may be inferred that the contractor:
 - Intended to deprive the owner of the right to or benefit from the money owed; or
 - Appropriated the money for his or her own use, or to a person not entitled to use of the payment.
- The fact that the person charged with construction fraud intended to return the money owed is not a defense.

The bill also sets value thresholds for the offense severity levels of a construction fraud offense:

Total Money Received	Offense Severity
< \$1,000	First Degree Misdemeanor
≥ \$1,000 but < \$20,000	Third Degree Felony
≥ \$20,000 but < \$200,000	Second Degree Felony
≥ \$200,000	First Degree Felony

Liquor and Gambling Offenses

Background

It is a third degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine:³⁶⁵

- To possess one gallon or more of liquor that was not made or manufactured in accordance with the law.³⁶⁶
- To possess, make, construct, or repair any still, still piping, still apparatus, or related item designed or adapted for the manufacture of an alcoholic beverage.³⁶⁷
- To possess any container holding any mash, wort, wash, or fermented liquids capable of being distilled or manufactured into an alcoholic beverage, without authorization.³⁶⁸
- To possess any raw materials or substance intended to be used in the distillation or manufacturing of an alcoholic beverage, unless licensed.³⁶⁹
- To keep or permit a gambling establishment.³⁷⁰ A person is guilty of this offense if he or she:
 - Habitually keeps, exercises, or maintains, for the purpose of gaming or gambling:
 - A gaming table or room;
 - Gaming implements;
 - Gaming apparatus; or
 - A house, booth, tent, shelter, or other place;³⁷¹
 - Habitually procures, suffers, or permits any person to play for money or other valuable thing at any game, in any place where he or she has charge, control, or management, whether directly or indirectly;³⁷²
 - Acts as servant, clerk, agent or employee of any person in violation of the gambling or gaming prohibitions above;³⁷³ or
 - Knowingly rents a house, room, booth, tent, shelter, or place to another person for the purpose of gaming.³⁷⁴

If any apparatus or device commonly used for gambling is found in a place, it is prima facie evidence that the place is kept for the purpose of gambling.³⁷⁵ The crime of keeping a gambling establishment is distinct from the crime of an isolated act of gambling,³⁷⁶ which generally is a second degree

³⁶⁵ See ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

³⁶⁶ Ss. 562.451(2) and 565.01, F.S.; cf. ss. 562.451(1), 775.082, and 775.083, F.S. (owning or possessing less than a gallon of liquor is a second degree felony, which is punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine).

³⁶⁷ S. 562.27(1), (8), F.S.

³⁶⁸ *Id.*

³⁶⁹ S. 562.27(2), (8), F.S.

³⁷⁰ "Gambling" is "anything which induces risk of money or property without any other hope of return than to get for nothing any given amount from another." "Gaming" is "an agreement . . . to risk money on a contest of chance of any kind, where one must be the loser and the other gainer." *Bellamy v. State*, 347 So. 2d 419, 420 (Fla. 1977).

³⁷¹ S. 849.01, F.S.; *Ferguson v. State*, 377 So. 2d 709, 711 (Fla. 1979) (requiring an element of "habitualness" for a conviction under s. 849.01, F.S.).

³⁷² *Id.*

³⁷³ S. 849.02, F.S.

³⁷⁴ S. 849.03, F.S.

³⁷⁵ S. 849.05, F.S.

³⁷⁶ S. 849.08, F.S.; see also s. 849.085, F.S. (regarding certain "penny-ante" games as lawful).

misdeemeanor, punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a fine up to \$500.³⁷⁷ The statutes providing for these crimes as third degree felonies were last amended in 1997.³⁷⁸

Effect of the Bill - Liquor and Gambling Offenses

CS/HB 7125 reduces the penalty from a third degree felony to a second degree misdemeanor for possession of still equipment and related offenses and keeping or maintaining a gambling establishment. The bill reduces the penalty for possession of one gallon or more of unauthorized liquor to a first degree misdemeanor.

Cyber Crimes

Background

Digital platforms, computer software, phone applications (apps), smart home systems,³⁷⁹ and home security systems access the most intimate details of a user's life. These technologies can monitor a person's location; log personal, health, and financial data; send, receive, and log communications; and capture and store video and photographs. While providing everyday convenience to the user, these technologies are also susceptible to unauthorized access and abusive surveillance.

Abusers harass victims using spyware and other technologies in a number of ways. For example, an abuser can weaponize private data obtained through spyware apps to embarrass or exploit a victim, or access a smart home system to unnerve and assert control over a victim by changing thermostat settings, unlocking doors, turning on lights, or playing music.³⁸⁰ A security expert recently demonstrated how an Amazon Echo's microphone might be hacked, permitting an abuser to eavesdrop on a victim.³⁸¹

Use of these technologies can also escalate into physical violence. In a 2013 Florida case, a Deltona man installed an app called "SMS Tracker" onto his wife's phone, allowing him to see text messages and photographs she was exchanging with others.³⁸² Upon discovering she was having an affair, he murdered her and her 8- and 9-year-old children.

³⁷⁷ See ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

³⁷⁸ See ch. 97-102, s. 1355, Laws of Fla.; ch. 97-103, ss. 865 and 869, Laws of Fla.

³⁷⁹ Smart home devices are connected to the internet and offer services such as voice-controlled lights, thermostats, and locks.

Examples of smart home devices include the Amazon Echo, Google Home, and platforms such as Samsung SmartThings and Apple Homekit. Eric Zeng, Shrirang Mare, and Franziska Roesner, *End User Security & Privacy Concerns with Smart Homes*, University of Washington (July 2017), <https://www.franziroesner.com/pdf/Zeng-Smarthomes-SOUPS17.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

³⁸⁰ Amanda Kippert, *Smart Home Technology Is Being Used Against Survivors* (Jan. 14, 2019),

<https://www.domesticshelters.org/articles/technology/smart-home-technology-is-being-used-against-survivors> (last visited May 10, 2019).

³⁸¹ Jay McGregor, *Listening-in on a Hacked Amazon Echo is Terrifying*, Forbes (Sept. 7, 2017),

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jaymcgregor/2017/09/07/listening-in-on-a-hacked-amazon-echo-is-terrifying/#32744f415c7f> (last visited May 10, 2019).

³⁸² Frank Fernandez, *Luis Toledo gets 3 consecutive life sentences for murders of wife, her 2 children*, Daytona-Beach News Journal Online (Jan. 19, 2018), <https://www.news-journalonline.com/news/20180119/luis-toledo-gets-3-consecutive-life-sentences-for-murders-of-wife-her-2-children> (last visited May 10, 2019); Jennifer Valentino-DiVries, *Hundreds of Apps Can Empower Stalkers to Track Their Victims*, New York Times (May 19, 2018), <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/19/technology/phone-apps-stalking.html> (last visited May 10, 2019).

Offenses against Users of Computers

Florida law criminalizes the following acts involving a computer,³⁸³ computer system,³⁸⁴ computer network,³⁸⁵ or electronic device³⁸⁶ when done knowingly, willfully, and without authorization:

- Accessing it with knowledge that such access is unauthorized.
 - Accessing means approaching, instructing, communicating with, storing data in, retrieving data from, or otherwise making use of any resources of a computer, computer system, or computer network.³⁸⁷
- Disrupting or denying its ability to transmit data to or from an authorized user under certain circumstances.
- Destroying, taking, injuring, or damaging it, its equipment, or supplies.
- Introducing a computer contaminant.
- Engaging in audio or video surveillance of an individual by accessing one of its inherent features or components, including accessing the data or information stored by a third party.³⁸⁸

In general, proscribed conduct against a computer user is a third degree felony,³⁸⁹ punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.³⁹⁰ However, the crime may be enhanced to a second³⁹¹ or first³⁹² degree felony with aggravating factors, such as excessive damage or endangering a human life.

“Without Authorization”

In 2018, Miami-Dade County prosecutors dismissed charges against a man accused of repeatedly logging into his ex-girlfriend’s home security system to secretly watch her in her home, citing an inability to prove that he did so “without authorization” as statutorily required.³⁹³ In that case, the victim previously authorized the defendant to access the security system occasionally during their relationship, leading prosecutors to conclude:

[E]ven though [the victim] did not intend or allow [the defendant] to repeatedly, on various days, and after their relationship ended, access her home security cameras, this conduct could not be prosecuted because while dating, she may have authorized remote access [to the system] on an isolated occasion or for limited purposes.³⁹⁴

³⁸³ “Computer” means an internally programmed, automatic device that performs data processing. S. 815.03(2), F.S.

³⁸⁴ “Computer system” means a device or collection of devices, including support devices, one or more of which contain computer programs, electronic instructions, or input data and output data, and which perform functions, including, but not limited to, logic, arithmetic, data storage, retrieval, communication, or control. The term does not include calculators that are not programmable and that are not capable of being used in conjunction with external files. S. 815.03(7), F.S.

³⁸⁵ “Computer network” means a system that provides a medium for communication between one or more computer systems or electronic devices, including communication with an input or output device such as a display terminal, printer, or other electronic equipment that is connected to the computer systems or electronic devices by physical or wireless telecommunication facilities. S. 815.03(4), F.S.

³⁸⁶ “Electronic device” means a device or a portion of a device that is designed for and capable of communicating across a computer network with other computers or devices for the purpose of transmitting, receiving, or storing data, including, but not limited to, a cellular telephone, tablet, or other portable device designed for and capable of communicating with or across a computer network and that is actually used for such purpose. S. 815.03(9), F.S.

³⁸⁷ S. 815.03(9), F.S.

³⁸⁸ S. 815.06(2), F.S.

³⁸⁹ S. 815.06(3)(a), F.S.

³⁹⁰ Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

³⁹¹ A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

³⁹² A first degree felony is punishable by up to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

³⁹³ Jose Arrojo, Chief Assistant State Attorney, Office of the State Attorney: Eleventh Judicial Circuit, *Colin Knight, F17-23267, Re: Case Disposition – Chief’s Summary & Proposed Further Action* (Aug. 9, 2018).

³⁹⁴ *Id.*

Florida case law supports this conclusion. In *Rodriguez v. State*,³⁹⁵ the Fourth District Court of Appeal (Fourth DCA) held that an employee who used a computer that he was authorized to use to perform a function he was not authorized to perform had not committed an offense against a computer user under Florida law. The Fourth DCA specifically noted that the federal statutes proscribing similar conduct include the phrase “or exceeding authorized access” to address such a situation.³⁹⁶ “Exceeding authorized access” in federal statute means accessing a computer with authorization and using such access to obtain or alter information in the computer that the accesser is not entitled to so obtain or alter.³⁹⁷

In *Umhoefer v. State*,³⁹⁸ the Second District Court of Appeal (Second DCA) upheld the conviction of a man who accessed his girlfriend’s social media account after she changed her password. Because the man had to use a password bypassing app to access the account, the Second DCA held that such access was “unauthorized,” as statutorily required. Whether a person is criminally liable under this statute thus may turn on whether a victim has the sophistication and foresight to change all of his or her passwords, regardless of whether the surrounding facts suggest the manner of use was unauthorized.

Stalking and Cyberstalking

Cyberstalking is a course of conduct³⁹⁹ that:

- Communicates words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication;
- Is directed at a specific person;
- Causes that person substantial emotional distress; and
- Serves no legitimate purpose.⁴⁰⁰

A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly cyberstalks another person commits first degree misdemeanor stalking,⁴⁰¹ punishable by up to one year in county jail and a \$1,000 fine.⁴⁰² A person faces a felony charge for cyberstalking when he or she:

- Makes a credible threat against the victim;
- Is subject to a court-ordered prohibition of contact with the victim, such as an injunction;
- Cyberstalks a victim younger than 16; or
- Has a prior conviction for certain sexual offenses and cyberstalks the victim of that offense in violation of a no contact order.⁴⁰³

A person may also be charged with stalking for willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly harassing another. Harassment is a course of conduct that:

- Is directed at a specific person;
- Causes that person substantial emotional distress; and
- Serves no legitimate purpose.⁴⁰⁴

Conduct involving digital technologies that does not qualify specifically as cyberstalking may nonetheless qualify as harassment and also give rise to criminal liability for stalking.

³⁹⁵ 956 So.2d 1226 (Fla. 4th DCA 2007).

³⁹⁶ *Id.* at 1230; 18 U.S.C. § 1030.

³⁹⁷ 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(6).

³⁹⁸ 235 So.3d 989 (Fla. 2d DCA 2017).

³⁹⁹ “Course of conduct” means a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing continuity of purpose. S. 746.048(1)(b), F.S.

⁴⁰⁰ S. 746.048(1)(d), F.S.

⁴⁰¹ S. 784.0048(2), F.S.

⁴⁰² Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

⁴⁰³ Ss. 784.048(3), (4), (5), and (7), F.S.

⁴⁰⁴ S. 784.048(1)(a), F.S.

A first sexual cyberharassment offense is a first degree misdemeanor; a second or subsequent offense is a third degree felony.⁴⁰⁵ A sexual cyberharassment victim may also civilly sue an offender for injunctive relief, damages, and reasonable attorney fees and costs.⁴⁰⁶

Effect of the Bill - Cyber Crimes

CS/HB 7125 includes acts “exceeding authorization” as offenses against users of computers, computer systems, computer networks, or electronic devices. The bill criminalizes unauthorized acts committed by means of authorized access, such as when an offender misuses knowledge of a password. An offense against a computer user that exceeds authorization is generally a third degree felony, unless an aggravating circumstance enhances the conduct to a second or first degree felony.

The bill amends the definition of “access” for purposes of computer-related crimes to include approaching, instructing, communicating with, storing data from, or otherwise making use of any resources of an electronic device.

The bill also expands the definition of cyberstalking to include accessing, or attempting to access, the online accounts or Internet-connected home electronic systems of another person without permission. A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly accesses another person’s account without his or her permission, causing substantial emotional distress and serving no legitimate purpose, commits stalking, a first degree misdemeanor, or with an aggravating factor, a third degree felony.

Lewd and Lascivious Exhibition

Background

Florida Law

“Gunning” is the practice of inmates openly masturbating towards female prison or jail employees.⁴⁰⁷ Across the country, employees have sued over sexually hostile work environments caused by their employers’ failure to remedy gunning and other exhibitionist lewd behaviors.⁴⁰⁸ In response to lawsuits against DOC, the Legislature criminalized lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of a prison employee in 2010.⁴⁰⁹ A detainee in a state or private correctional facility may not commit any of the following acts in the presence of an employee:

- Intentionally masturbate;
- Intentionally expose his or her genitals in a lewd or lascivious⁴¹⁰ manner; or

⁴⁰⁵ S. 784.049(3), F.S.

⁴⁰⁶ S. 784.049(5), F.S.

⁴⁰⁷ *Beckford v. Dept. of Corr.*, 605 F.3d 951 (11th Cir. 2010).

⁴⁰⁸ *Id.* See also Kate Eckman, *Nurses Win Lawsuit Against DOC*, WJHG (Jan. 28, 2007),

<https://www.wjhg.com/home/headlines/5386741.html> (last visited May 10, 2019).; Michael Alison Chandler, *Women working in male prisons face harassment from inmates and coworkers*, The Washington Post (Jan. 27, 2018),

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/women-working-in-male-prisons-face-harassment-from-inmates-and-co-workers/2018/01/27/21552cee-01f1-11e8-9d31-d72cf78dbeee_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.92e36856561d (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁴⁰⁹ Ch. 2010-64, Laws of Fla.

⁴¹⁰ As defined by the Florida Supreme Court, the words “lewd” and “lascivious” carry the same meaning, which is a wicked, lustful, unchaste, licentious, or sensual intent on the part of the person doing an act. *Chesebrough v. State*, 255 So. 2d 675, 677 (Fla. 1971).

- Intentionally commit any other sexual act that does not involve actual physical or sexual contact with the victim, including, but not limited to:
 - Sadomasochistic abuse;⁴¹¹
 - Sexual bestiality;⁴¹² or
 - The simulation of any act involving sexual activity.⁴¹³

An employee protected by this law is:

- A person employed by or contracting with:
 - A state or private prison;⁴¹⁴ or
 - The corporation operating the prison industry enhancement programs or correctional work programs.⁴¹⁵
- A parole examiner⁴¹⁶ with the Florida Commission on Offender Review.⁴¹⁷

The crime applies to conduct in a prison, but does not address such conduct in a jail where inmates are generally either detained while a case is pending or serving a sentence of less than one year. Lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of an employee is a third degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.⁴¹⁸

Effect of the Bill - Lewd and Lascivious Exhibition

CS/HB 7125 extends the crime of lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of an employee to cover conduct in a county detention facility. The bill includes in the definition of “employee”:

- Any person employed by or performing contractual services for a public or private entity operating a state correctional institution or private correctional facility;
- Any person employed by or performing contractual services for the corporation operating prison industry enhancement programs or correctional work programs;
- Any person who is a parole examiner with the Florida Commission on Offender Review; or
- Any person employed at or performing contractual services for a county detention facility.

The bill expands the definition of “facility” to include a county detention facility. As a result, a jail inmate who does any of the following may be charged with a third degree felony:

- Intentionally masturbates;
- Intentionally exposes his or her genitals in a lewd or lascivious manner; or
- Intentionally commits any other sexual act that does not involve actual physical or sexual contact with the victim, including, but not limited to:
 - Sadomasochistic abuse;
 - Sexual bestiality; or
 - The simulation of any act involving sexual activity.

The bill gives jails an additional tool to deter sexually harassing inmate behavior, thereby improving working conditions, especially for female employees. The bill does not list the offense on the offense

⁴¹¹ Sadomasochistic abuse means flagellation or torture by or upon a person or animal, or the condition of being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained, for the purpose of deriving sexual satisfaction, or satisfaction brought about as a result of sadistic violence, from inflicting harm on another or receiving such harm oneself. S. 847.001(13), F.S.

⁴¹² Sexual bestiality means any sexual act, actual or simulated, between a person and an animal involving the sex organ of the one and the mouth, anus, or vagina of the other. S. 847.001(15), F.S.

⁴¹³ S. 800.09(2)(a), F.S.

⁴¹⁴ In Florida, a private contractor may operate a prison pursuant to s. 944.105, F.S.

⁴¹⁵ Florida law authorizes DOC to contract with a nonprofit organization to operate a correctional work program pursuant to chapter 946, F.S.

⁴¹⁶ A parole examiner conducts hearings to determine eligibility for early release on parole. S. 947.16, F.S.

⁴¹⁷ S. 800.09(1)(a), F.S.

⁴¹⁸ Ss. 775.082, 775.083, and 800.09(2)(b), F.S.

severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code; therefore, the offense remains a level one as an unlisted third degree felony.⁴¹⁹

Possession of a Counterfeit Instrument

Background

As used in s. 831.28, F.S.:

- “Counterfeit” means:
 - Manufacturing or arranging to manufacture a payment instrument without permission from a financial institution, account holder, or organization whose name, routing number, or account number appears on the payment instrument; or
 - Manufacturing any payment instrument using a fake name, routing number, or account number.
- A “payment instrument”:
 - Is a check, draft, warrant, money order, travelers check, electronic instrument, or other instrument, payment of money, or monetary value, whether or not negotiable; and
 - Does not include an instrument redeemable for merchandise or service, a credit card voucher, or a letter of credit.

Under current law, a person possessing a counterfeit payment instrument commits a third degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. As written, the law criminalizes even the unknowing possession of a counterfeit payment instrument; for example, a person accepting payment from another by check, without knowing the check he or she accepted is counterfeit, commits the crime of possessing a counterfeit payment instrument.

In *State v. Thomas*, the Fifth District Court of Appeal held that Florida’s statute criminalizing possession of a counterfeit instrument is facially unconstitutional because it violates due process by criminalizing mere possession rather than possession with intent to defraud.⁴²⁰ The Court held that the plain reading of the statute and the principles of statutory construction require the statute to be interpreted as it is written, regardless of whether the legislature may have intended to include “intent to defraud” as an element of the possession offense.

Effect of the Bill - Possession of a Counterfeit Instrument

The bill adds the element of intent to defraud to the crime of possession of a counterfeit instrument.

Introduction of Contraband

Background

Cell phones in state correctional institutions are a pervasive and documented problem, with the DOC confiscating more than 9,000 cell phones between 2017 and 2018.⁴²¹ Although the introduction of contraband can often be attributed to criminal gang activity or visitors, in 2018 there were at least 19 state correctional officers and staff who were accused of misconduct relating to contraband.⁴²² Four state correctional officers and a former chaplain have been arrested for introducing contraband into a correctional institution in 2019.⁴²³

⁴¹⁹ S. 921.0023, F.S.

⁴²⁰ 133 So. 3d 1133 (Fla. 5th 2014).

⁴²¹ Dan Sullivan, *Spice and cell phones: Florida’s prisons see new wave of contraband*, Tampa Bay Times (Nov. 5, 2018), https://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/crime/Spice-and-cell-phones-Florida-s-prisons-see-new-wave-of-contraband_172879515 (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁴²² *Id.*

⁴²³ Florida Department of Corrections, *FDC Press Releases and Announcements*, <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/comm/press/2019/index.html>

Inmates with cell phones can make unrecorded and unmonitored calls to people outside the facility, sometimes for nefarious purposes. Prison cell phone use has been linked to threats, murder, complex criminal schemes, and escapes.⁴²⁴ Cell phone use in a county detention facility poses similar risks. Additionally, since many inmates in a county detention facility are awaiting trial, there is heightened risk that cell phones could be used to intimidate witnesses and obstruct justice.

Florida law prohibits introduction of contraband into state correctional institutions⁴²⁵ and county detention facilities.⁴²⁶ Introduction of contraband is either a second or third degree felony,⁴²⁷ depending on the type of contraband introduced and the facility.⁴²⁸ Contraband, which includes items that may pose a safety concern, is defined differently for each facility.

In a state correctional institution, contraband includes any:

- Written or recorded communication or any currency or coin;
- Article of food or clothing;
- Intoxicating beverage or beverage which causes or may cause an intoxicating effect;
- Controlled substance as defined in s. 893.02(4), F.S., or any drug having a hypnotic, stimulating, or depressing effect;
- Firearm, weapon, or explosive substance; and
- Cell phone or other portable communication device.⁴²⁹

In a county detention facility, introduction of any of the following is a third degree felony:

- Written or recorded communication;
- Currency or coin;
- Article of food or clothing;
- Tobacco products, cigarette, or cigar;
- Intoxicating beverage or beverage which causes or may cause an intoxicating effect;
- Narcotic, hypnotic, or excitative drug or drug of any kind or nature, including nasal inhalators, sleeping pills, barbiturates, and controlled substances as defined in s. 893.02(4), F.S.;
- Firearm or instrumentality used or intended to be used as a dangerous weapon; and
- Instrumentality that may be used or is intended to be used as an escape aid.⁴³⁰

Cell phones or other portable electronic devices are only criminalized as contraband in a state correctional institution, punishable as a third degree felony.⁴³¹ A county detention facility may prohibit cell phones by internal rule, allowing officers to confiscate phones and discipline inmates for a violation.⁴³² However, law enforcement can neither criminally charge a person for having a cell phone in a county detention facility nor fully investigate how a cell phone enters the facility.⁴³³

(last visited May 10, 2019).

⁴²⁴ Matt Riley, *Southern Prisons Have a Cellphone Smuggling Problem*, NBC News (Sept. 30, 2017), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/corrections/southern-prisons-have-smuggled-cellphone-problem-n790251> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁴²⁵ S. 944.47, F.S.

⁴²⁶ S. 951.22, F.S.

⁴²⁷ A third degree felony is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. A second degree felony is punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

⁴²⁸ Ss. 944.47(2), 951.22(2), and 985.711(2), F.S.

⁴²⁹ S. 944.47, F.S.

⁴³⁰ S. 951.22, F.S.

⁴³¹ The offense in unranked and defaults to a level one offense. S. 921.0023(1), F.S.

⁴³² See, e.g., Florida Sheriffs Association, *Florida Model Jail Standards*, standard no. 14.1, https://www.flsheriffs.org/uploads/docs/FMJS_07-01-2017.pdf (last visited May 10, 2019); Orange County Corrections Department, *Administrative Order No. 10.200 re: Inmate Discipline* (August 30, 2017).

⁴³³ Law enforcement may apply for a search warrant to search the contents of a cell phone when the phone constitutes evidence relevant to proving a felony has been committed. S. 933.02, F.S.; *Smallwood v. State*, 113 So. 3d 724 (Fla. 2013). As possession of a

Effect of the Bill - Introduction of Contraband

CS/HB 7125 reclassifies introduction of any of the following items into a county detention facility from a third degree felony to a first degree misdemeanor:

- Written or recorded communication;
- Currency or coin;
- Article of food or clothing;
- Tobacco products, cigarette, or cigar; and
- Intoxicating beverage or beverage which causes or may cause an intoxicating effect.

Introduction of an intoxicating drug, firearm or weapon, or instrumentality which can be used to aid in an escape remains a third degree felony.

The bill specifies that correspondence and other documents relating to an inmate's legal representation exchanged between a lawyer, paralegal, or other legal staff and an inmate at a county detention facility are not contraband.

The bill adds cell phones and other portable communication devices to the list of prohibited contraband items in a county detention facility. The bill makes introducing a cell phone or other portable communication device into a county detention facility a third degree felony, ranked as a level four offense on the offense severity ranking chart. The bill increases the offense level for introducing a cell phone or other portable communication device into a state correctional institution by ranking the offense as a level four offense on the offense severity ranking chart.

The bill decreases the offense level for introducing an intoxicating drug into a county detention facility from a level six offense to a level four offense. This makes the offense level for introducing an intoxicating drug into a county detention facility consistent with the offense level for introducing an intoxicating drug into a state correctional institution. The bill also ranks the previously unranked offense of introducing an instrumentality which can be used to aid in an escape into a county detention facility as a level four offense.

The bill enhances the penalty for introducing contraband committed by an employee who uses his or her position to introduce the contraband into a state correctional institution. The bill increases the offense level one level above the ranking specified in the offense severity ranking chart for the offense committed. The term "employee"⁴³⁴ includes employees of the Department of Corrections, employees or vendors under contract with the state, volunteers, and law enforcement officers who are on the grounds of a state correctional institution in the course of their employment.⁴³⁵

Sealing and Expunction of Criminal History Records

Background

A criminal history record includes any nonjudicial record maintained by a criminal justice agency⁴³⁶ that contains criminal history information.⁴³⁷ Criminal history information is information collected by criminal

cell phone in a county detention facility is not currently a felony crime, law enforcement may not obtain a warrant to inspect the contents of a cell phone discovered in a jail unless there is probable cause to connect the phone to an independent crime.

⁴³⁴ S. 944.115(2)(b), F.S.

⁴³⁵ Law enforcement officers may be on the grounds of a correctional institution to transport inmates or conduct criminal investigations.

⁴³⁶ Criminal justice agencies include the court, the Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), components of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and other governmental agencies that administrate criminal justice. S. 943.045(11), F.S.

⁴³⁷ S. 943.045(6), F.S.

justice agencies consisting of identifiable descriptions of individuals and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, informations, other formal criminal charges, and criminal dispositions.⁴³⁸

Sealing

A court may order a criminal history record sealed,⁴³⁹ rendering it confidential and exempt from Florida's public records laws.⁴⁴⁰ Only the following may access a sealed criminal history record:

- The subject of the record;
- His or her attorney;
- Criminal justice agencies for criminal justice purposes;
- Judges in the state courts system for assisting in their case-related decision-making responsibilities; and
- Certain enumerated entities⁴⁴¹ for licensing, access authorization, and employment purposes.⁴⁴²

Upon sealing of a criminal history record, the subject of the record may lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge the arrests covered by the sealed record, with exceptions for certain state employment positions, professional licensing purposes, purchasing a firearm, applying for a concealed weapons permit, seeking expunction, or if the subject is a defendant in a criminal prosecution.⁴⁴³

A criminal history record is not eligible for court-ordered sealing if it relates to:

- Sexual misconduct;⁴⁴⁴
- Illegal use of explosives;⁴⁴⁵
- Terrorism;⁴⁴⁶
- Murder;⁴⁴⁷
- Manslaughter or homicide;⁴⁴⁸
- Assault⁴⁴⁹ or battery⁴⁵⁰ of one family or household member by another family or household member;⁴⁵¹
- Aggravated assault;⁴⁵²
- Felony battery, domestic battery by strangulation, or aggravated battery;⁴⁵³
- Stalking or aggravated stalking;⁴⁵⁴
- Luring or enticing a child;⁴⁵⁵
- Human trafficking;⁴⁵⁶

⁴³⁸ S. 943.045(5), F.S.

⁴³⁹ S. 943.059, F.S.

⁴⁴⁰ Ss. 943.059(4) and 119.07(1), F.S.; Art. I, s. 24(a), Fla. Const.

⁴⁴¹ Enumerated entities include criminal justice agencies, The Florida Bar, the Department of Children and Families, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation within the Department of Education, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Health, the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education, a district school board, a university laboratory school, a charter school, a private or parochial school, a local governmental entity that licenses child care facilities, the Division of Insurance Agent and Agency Services within the Department of Financial Services, and the Bureau of License Issuance of the Division of Licensing within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

⁴⁴² S. 943.059(4)(a), F.S.

⁴⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴⁴ Ss. 393.135, 394.4593, and 916.1075, F.S.

⁴⁴⁵ Ch. 552, F.S.

⁴⁴⁶ S. 775.30, F.S.

⁴⁴⁷ Ss. 782.04, 782.065, and 782.09, F.S.

⁴⁴⁸ Ss. 782.07, 782.071, and 782.072, F.S.

⁴⁴⁹ S. 784.011, F.S.

⁴⁵⁰ S. 784.03, F.S.

⁴⁵¹ S. 741.28(3), F.S.

⁴⁵² S. 784.021, F.S.

⁴⁵³ Ss. 784.03, 784.041, and 784.045, F.S.

⁴⁵⁴ S. 784.048, F.S.

⁴⁵⁵ S. 787.025, F.S.

- Kidnapping or false imprisonment;⁴⁵⁷
- Sexual battery, unlawful sexual activity with a minor, or female genital mutilation;⁴⁵⁸
- Procuring a person under the age of 18 for prostitution;⁴⁵⁹
- Lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of persons less than 16 years of age;⁴⁶⁰
- Arson;⁴⁶¹
- Burglary of a dwelling;⁴⁶²
- Voyeurism or video voyeurism;⁴⁶³
- Robbery or robbery by sudden snatching;⁴⁶⁴
- Carjacking;⁴⁶⁵
- Home invasion robbery;⁴⁶⁶
- A violation of the Florida Communications Fraud Act;⁴⁶⁷
- Abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult or aggravated abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult;⁴⁶⁸
- Lewd or lascivious offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly or disabled person;⁴⁶⁹
- Child abuse or aggravated child abuse;⁴⁷⁰
- Sexual performance by a child;⁴⁷¹
- Offenses by public officers and employees;⁴⁷²
- Certain acts in connection with obscenity;⁴⁷³
- A violation of the Computer Pornography and Child Exploitation Prevention Act;⁴⁷⁴
- Selling or buying of minors;⁴⁷⁵
- Aircraft piracy;⁴⁷⁶
- Manufacturing a controlled substance;⁴⁷⁷
- Drug trafficking;⁴⁷⁸ or
- Any violation specified as a predicate offense for registration as a sexual predator⁴⁷⁹ or sexual offender.⁴⁸⁰

⁴⁵⁶ S. 787.06, F.S.

⁴⁵⁷ Ss. 787.01 and 787.02, F.S.

⁴⁵⁸ Ch. 794, F.S.

⁴⁵⁹ S. 796.03, F.S. (2013) (repealed by ch. 2014-160, §10, Laws of Fla.).

⁴⁶⁰ S. 800.04, F.S.

⁴⁶¹ S. 806.01, F.S.

⁴⁶² S. 810.02, F.S.

⁴⁶³ Ss. 810.14 and 810.145, F.S.

⁴⁶⁴ Ss. 812.13 and 812.131, F.S.

⁴⁶⁵ S. 812.133, F.S.

⁴⁶⁶ S. 812.135, F.S.

⁴⁶⁷ S. 817.034, F.S.

⁴⁶⁸ S. 825.102, F.S.

⁴⁶⁹ S. 825.1025, F.S.

⁴⁷⁰ S. 827.03, F.S.

⁴⁷¹ S. 827.071, F.S.

⁴⁷² Ch. 839, F.S.

⁴⁷³ S. 847.0133, F.S.

⁴⁷⁴ S. 893.0135, F.S.

⁴⁷⁵ S. 847.0145, F.S.

⁴⁷⁶ S. 860.16, F.S.

⁴⁷⁷ Ch. 893, F.S.

⁴⁷⁸ S. 893.135, F.S.

⁴⁷⁹ S. 775.21, F.S.

⁴⁸⁰ S. 943.0535, F.S.

To obtain a sealing, a person must first apply to FDLE for a certificate of eligibility, which FDLE must issue to a person who:

- Has submitted a certified copy of the charge disposition he or she seeks to seal;
- Is not seeking to seal a criminal history record relating to a violation of certain enumerated offenses;
- Has never, prior to filing the application for a certificate of eligibility, been either:
 - Adjudicated guilty of any criminal offense or comparable ordinance violation; or
 - Adjudicated delinquent of certain enumerated crimes as a juvenile.
- Has not been adjudicated guilty or delinquent for committing any of the acts stemming from the arrest or alleged criminal activity to which the petition to seal pertains;
- Has never secured a prior sealing or expunction; and
- Is no longer under court supervision related to the disposition of the arrest or alleged criminal activity to which the petition to seal pertains.⁴⁸¹

Upon receiving a certificate of eligibility from FDLE, a person must petition the court to seal the record.⁴⁸² A complete petition contains both a valid certificate of eligibility, issued within the previous 12 months, and a sworn statement from the petitioner attesting to his or her eligibility.⁴⁸³ It is solely within the court's discretion to grant or deny a petition to seal.⁴⁸⁴

Expunction

A person may have his or her criminal history record expunged under certain circumstances.⁴⁸⁵ When a record is expunged, the criminal justice agencies possessing such record must physically destroy or obliterate it.⁴⁸⁶ FDLE maintains a copy of the record to evaluate subsequent requests for sealing or expunction, and to recreate the record in the event a court vacates the order to expunge.⁴⁸⁷ Once the record is expunged, a person may lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge the arrests covered by the expunged record, subject to exceptions.⁴⁸⁸

Court-Ordered Expunction

A court, in its sole discretion, may order a criminal justice agency to expunge a person's criminal history record if FDLE issues the person a certificate of eligibility for expunction.⁴⁸⁹ FDLE must issue a certificate of eligibility for court-ordered expunction to a person meeting all criteria.⁴⁹⁰ Generally, a person is eligible for expunction if:

- The person has never had a record sealed or expunged previously;⁴⁹¹
- The person has never been adjudicated guilty as an adult for any offense or adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile for certain enumerated offenses;⁴⁹² and

⁴⁸¹ S. 943.059(2), F.S.

⁴⁸² *Id.*

⁴⁸³ S. 943.059(1), F.S.

⁴⁸⁴ S. 943.059, F.S.

⁴⁸⁵ Ss. 943.0581, 943.0582, 943.0583, and 943.0585, F.S.

⁴⁸⁶ S. 943.045(16), F.S.

⁴⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸⁸ S. 943.0585(4), F.S.

⁴⁸⁹ S. 943.0585(1), F.S.

⁴⁹⁰ S. 943.0585(2), F.S.

⁴⁹¹ *Id.*

⁴⁹² *Id.*

- The case he or she seeks to have expunged:
 - Either:
 - Was dismissed by a no action,⁴⁹³ *nolle prosequi*,⁴⁹⁴ or court dismissal,⁴⁹⁵ or
 - Resulted in a not guilty verdict or judgment of acquittal,⁴⁹⁶ and
 - Does not relate to one of several enumerated offenses, which are the same as the disqualifying offenses for sealing.⁴⁹⁷

Administrative Expunction

Administrative expunction is available to a person whose arrest was made contrary to law or by mistake.⁴⁹⁸ Either a law enforcement agency or a person seeking expunction may apply to FDLE for the remedy; however, a person seeking this form of expunction must have the endorsement of the head of the arresting agency, the state attorney, or either's designee.

An example of when administrative expunction might be appropriate is where the wrong individual was arrested on an arrest warrant, such as another person by the same name, or where the warrant named a person other than the suspect by accident.⁴⁹⁹ This relatively rare form of expunction is available to both adults and juveniles.

Other Types of Expunction

Other types of expunction include:

- Lawful self-defense expunction.⁵⁰⁰
- Human trafficking victim expunction.⁵⁰¹
- Automatic juvenile expunction.⁵⁰²
- Early juvenile expunction.⁵⁰³
- Juvenile diversion program expunction.⁵⁰⁴

Processing Petitions to Seal and Expunge

Processing petitions to seal or expunge criminal history records consumes considerable FDLE resources, as FDLE must verify all petitioners' criminal histories both in and out of state. At the end of

⁴⁹³ A no action is the dismissal of the pending charges before an information or indictment has been filed. *Genden v. Fuller*, 648 So. 2d 1183, 1183 n. 1 (Fla. 1994).

⁴⁹⁴ A *nolle prosequi* is the dismissal of a pending information or indictment. *Id.*

⁴⁹⁵ The court may dismiss a case under certain circumstances, including on a defense motion to dismiss, under Rule 3.90(c)(4), Fla. R. Crim. P., upon expiration of the speedy trial period under Rule 3.191, Fla. R. Crim. P., or upon granting Stand Your Ground immunity under s. 776.032, F.S.

⁴⁹⁶ The court may acquit a defendant if, at the close of evidence, it is of the opinion that the evidence is insufficient to warrant a conviction. Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.380(a).

⁴⁹⁷ S. 943.0585(2)(a)3., F.S.

⁴⁹⁸ S. 943.0581, F.S.; R. 11C-7.008, F.A.C.

⁴⁹⁹ Aisling Swift, *Revamped Florida law allows wrongly arrested to get record cleared, but few using it*, Naples Daily News (August 13, 2014), <http://archive.naplesnews.com/news/crime/revamped-florida-law-allows-wrongly-arrested-to-get-record-cleared-but-few-using-it-ep-393319999-343144122.html> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁰⁰ S. 943.0585(5), F.S.

⁵⁰¹ S. 943.0583, F.S. Human trafficking under Florida law is the transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, or obtaining of another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person. A person who is a victim of human trafficking may petition for the expunction of a criminal history record resulting from the arrest or filing of charges for an offense committed or reported to have been committed as a part of the human trafficking scheme of which he or she was a victim, regardless of the disposition of the case. This type of expunction is not available for certain violent offenses.

⁵⁰² S. 943.0515, F.S.

⁵⁰³ S. 943.0515(1)(b), F.S.

⁵⁰⁴ S. 943.0582, F.S.

calendar year 2018, FDLE had approximately 8,300 pending certificate of eligibility applications.⁵⁰⁵ The average turnaround time for processing a certificate of eligibility application was:

- 144 business days in 2018.
- 107 business days in 2017.
- 96 business days in 2016.⁵⁰⁶

Effect of the Bill - Sealing and Expunction

Automatic Sealing

CS/HB 7125 directs FDLE to implement rules creating an automatic sealing process for criminal history records. FDLE must automatically seal a criminal history record if the record does not result from an indictment, information, or other charging document for a forcible felony⁵⁰⁷ or for an offense enumerated in s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.a.(I), F.S.,⁵⁰⁸ when:

- Charges were not filed;
- Charges were dismissed, unless the dismissal was due to incompetency to proceed,⁵⁰⁹ or
- The defendant was acquitted, by either a verdict of not guilty or a judgment of acquittal.

Unlike the court-ordered sealing process, automatic sealing is not contingent on either the nature of the charge or the person's prior criminal history. Additionally, there is no limit on the number of sealings a person may receive by this process. Eliminating the need to verify prior criminal history for sealing significantly alleviates the workload burden on FDLE. However, if the criminal history record is an indictment, information, or other charging document for a forcible felony or an enumerated offense in s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.a.(I), F.S., the record is not eligible for automatic sealing. An arrest is not excluded, however, a person who is arrested for such a charge, but ultimately prosecuted for a lesser offense and acquitted, or receives a dismissal, qualifies for automatic sealing.

A criminal justice agency or a court is not required to seal its records as a result of automatic sealing. Thus, prosecutors, law enforcement, and judges retain access to an automatically sealed record. Otherwise, however, the sealing has the same effect as a court-ordered sealing under s. 943.059, F.S., including that many potential employers would not see the sealed record when conducting a background check.

Reorganization

CS/HB 7125 reorganizes the statutes related to sealing and expunction for clarity. Regarding court-ordered sealing and court-ordered expunction, which share a common list of ineligible offenses, the bill creates a new statutory section listing all ineligible offenses by both name and statute number. The bill clarifies that an ineligible criminal history record is a conviction for any enumerated offense, as opposed to simply a record that "relates to" an enumerated offense. The bill limits disqualifying prior convictions for court-ordered sealing and expunction to convictions in Florida. Other organizational changes to both

⁵⁰⁵ Email from Ron Draa, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Re: Sealing/Expunction Timeframes/Backlog (Jan. 28, 2019).

⁵⁰⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁰⁷ Forcible felonies include treason; murder; manslaughter; sexual battery; carjacking; home-invasion robbery; robbery; burglary; arson; kidnapping; aggravated assault; aggravated battery; aggravated stalking; aircraft piracy; unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb; and any other felony which involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against any individual. S. 776.08, F.S.

⁵⁰⁸ A conviction for such an offense requires the offender to register as a sexual offender.

⁵⁰⁹ A defendant is incompetent to proceed when he or she is unable to consult with counsel with a reasonable degree of rational understanding or does not have a rational and factual understanding of the pending proceedings. Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.211; *Dusky v. United States*, 362 U.S. 402 (1960). Section 916.145, F.S., requires a court to dismiss the charges against a defendant who has been adjudicated incompetent to proceed due to mental illness under certain circumstances. Section 985.19, F.S., requires a court to dismiss the delinquency petition of a minor under certain circumstances.

the court-ordered sealing and court-ordered expunction statute retain the substance in current law while promoting better readability.

The bill further creates a new statutory section for lawful self-defense expunction, which is currently housed under the court-ordered expunction section, as all other forms of expunction are contained within distinct statutory sections. The substance of the law regarding lawful self-defense expunction remains the same. Finally, the bill clarifies that administrative expunction is for mistake of law or fact by including this language in the title of the section addressing administrative expunction.

Inmate Reentry

Background

The Department of Corrections (DOC) may collaborate with public or private organizations, including faith-based service groups, to provide postrelease services to former inmates including substance abuse counseling, family counseling, and employment support programs.⁵¹⁰ DOC selects partner organizations based on the:

- Depth and scope of services provided;
- Geographic area to be served;
- Number of inmates to be served and the cost of services per inmate; and
- Individual provider's record of success in providing inmate services.

Transition Assistance

DOC provides transition assistance at each of its major prison institutions⁵¹¹ to facilitate community reintegration by:

- Developing an inmate's postrelease plan;
- Obtaining job placement information;
- Providing a written medical discharge plan and referral to a county health department;
- Providing a 30-day supply of HIV/AIDS medication, if taken prior to release by an inmate who is known to be HIV positive;
- Facilitating placement in a private transition housing program, if an inmate is eligible and makes such a request,⁵¹² and
- Providing a photo identification card.

A correctional officer⁵¹³ or a correctional probation officer⁵¹⁴ may not serve as a transition assistance specialist.

⁵¹⁰ S. 944.707, F.S.

⁵¹¹ Major institutions, or correctional institutions, are prisons with fences, razor wire or ribbon, electronic detection systems, perimeter towers with armed correctional officers and/or officers in roving perimeter vehicles. Other types of prison facilities include work/forestry camps, community release centers, and road prisons. There are currently 50 major institutions in Florida. See Florida Department of Corrections, *Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017-2018*, pg. 33-34, http://dc.state.fl.us/pub/annual/1718/FDC_AR2017-18.pdf (last visited May 10, 2019); s. 944.704, F.S.

⁵¹² Placements may include contracted substance abuse transition housing or contracted faith-based substance abuse transition housing programs. S. 944.704, F.S.

⁵¹³ A "correctional officer" is defined as "any person who is appointed or employed full-time by the state or any political subdivision thereof, or by any private entity which has contracted with the state or county, and whose primary responsibility is the supervision, protection, care, custody, and control, or investigation, of inmates within a correction institution." The term does not include any secretarial, clerical, or professionally trained staff. S. 943.10(2), F.S.

⁵¹⁴ A "correctional probation officer" is defined as "any person who is employed full-time by the state whose primary responsibility is the supervised custody, surveillance, and control of assigned inmates, probationers, parolees, or community controlees within institutions of the Department of Corrections or within the community." The term includes supervisory personnel whose duties include, in whole or in part, the supervision, training, and guidance of correctional probation officers, but excludes management and administrative personnel above, but not including, the probation and parole regional administrator level. S. 943.10(3), F.S.

Before release, every inmate must complete a 100-hour comprehensive training course that focuses on job readiness and life management skills.⁵¹⁵ In June 2017, DOC implemented statewide use of the Compass 100 program to meet this statutory training requirement. Inmates nearing release complete Compass 100, which focuses on developing life skills in conjunction with other educational courses and substance abuse treatment.⁵¹⁶ Topics include punctuality, workplace etiquette, interpersonal communication, and problem solving.⁵¹⁷ Additionally, inmates are required to complete a cognitive behavioral curriculum called "Thinking for a Change" which is designed to foster effective communication and problem solving skills.⁵¹⁸ Each inmate develops a "Readiness Portfolio" that contains a resume, community resources, and program completion certificates to use as they reenter the community.⁵¹⁹

DOC also employs four regional community transition specialists who collaborate with public, private, and community agencies to identify and develop employment opportunities for ex-offenders.⁵²⁰ Lastly, DOC employs an employment specialist in each judicial circuit to assist offenders on community supervision with identifying employment opportunities.⁵²¹

A statewide reentry resource directory, available to transition specialists and ex-offenders, is a searchable database available on DOC's website containing over 6,000 state and local organizations providing reentry services to offenders returning to the community.⁵²² Currently, organizations seeking to be included in the resource directory submit an application to DOC, which enters the information into the directory. The department verifies the resource directory every six months to ensure the information remains current.⁵²³

Spectrum

DOC uses Spectrum, an evidence-based assessment and screening system that helps DOC make informed decisions regarding an inmate's continuum of care through institutions and back to the community. Using assessments and screenings across multiple disciplines including mental health, substance abuse, academic and workforce education, Spectrum allows DOC to determine and provide resources that may reduce an inmate's recidivism risk.⁵²⁴

⁵¹⁵ S. 944.7065, F.S.

⁵¹⁶ Florida Department of Corrections, *Florida Department of Corrections Launches Compass 100*, June 5, 2017, <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/comm/press/2017/06-05-Compass100.html> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵¹⁷ *Id.*

⁵¹⁸ *Id.*

⁵¹⁹ *Id.*

⁵²⁰ Florida Department of Corrections, Agency Analysis of 2018 Senate Bill 226, p. 3 (Oct. 2, 2017),

<http://abar.laspbs.state.fl.us/ABAR/Attachment.aspx?ID=25696> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵²¹ *Id.*

⁵²² *Id.* at 2.

⁵²³ Email from Chris Taylor, Legislative Analyst, Florida Department of Corrections, RE: Question about Reentry Resource Directory (Feb. 25, 2019).

⁵²⁴ Email from Jared Torres, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Corrections, RE: Questions about Spectrum (Mar. 28, 2019).

Release Orientation Programming

DOC currently provides a standardized release orientation program to every eligible inmate.⁵²⁵ The program includes instruction on:

- Employment skills;
- Money management skills;
- Personal development and planning;
- Community reentry concerns and support; and
- Any other appropriate instruction to ensure the inmate's successful reentry into the community.⁵²⁶

DOC must conduct a needs assessment of every inmate to determine any basic support services the inmate may need upon their release.⁵²⁷ In order to provide these services, DOC is authorized to contract with outside public or private entities, including faith-based service groups.⁵²⁸

Educational Programming

Section 944.801, F.S., authorizes DOC to establish educational services in all institutions that house inmates under its supervision. DOC is required to:

- Collect information relating to inmates' educational or vocational areas of interest, vocational skills, and education level during the intake process;
- Approve varying levels and types of institutional educational programs; and
- Establish procedures for inmate admission to the programs.⁵²⁹

DOC must enter into agreements with certain entities to ensure the educational programs meet minimum performance standards established by the Florida Department of Education.⁵³⁰ DOC may enter into agreements with public or private:

- School districts;
- Community colleges;
- Junior colleges;
- Colleges;
- Universities; or
- Other entities.⁵³¹

Career and Technical Education Programming

DOC offers a variety of career and technical education programs throughout the state. Program offerings include:

- Culinary Arts (11 institutions);
- Masonry, Brick and Block (10 institutions);
- Carpentry (7 institutions);
- Electricity (7 institutions);

⁵²⁵ All inmates released from the custody of DOC are eligible to receive transition services. However, the law instructs DOC to give priority for these services to substance abuse addicted inmates. The law provides that inmates released from private correctional facilities should be informed of and provided with the same level of transition assistance services as provided by DOC for an inmate in a state correctional facility. Ss. 944.703 and 944.7031, F.S.

⁵²⁶ S. 944.705, F.S.

⁵²⁷ S. 944.705(4), F.S.

⁵²⁸ S. 944.705(5), F.S.

⁵²⁹ S. 944.801, F.S.

⁵³⁰ S. 944.801(3)(e), F.S.

⁵³¹ *Id.*

- Technology Support Services (6 institutions);
- Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology (5 institutions);
- Automotive Technology Career Services (5 institutions);
- Cabinetmaking (5 institutions);
- Plumbing Technology (5 institutions);
- Environmental Services (4 institutions);
- Building Construction Design (3 institutions);
- Computer Systems and Information Technology (3 institutions);
- Welding Technology (3 institutions);
- Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing (2 institutions);
- Graphic Communications and Printing (2 institutions);
- Landscape Management (2 institutions);
- Beekeeping (1 institution);
- Canine Obedience Training (1 institution);
- Commercial Class "B" Driving (1 institution);
- Cosmetology (1 institution);
- Digital Design (1 institution);
- Drafting (1 institution);
- Equine Care Technology (1 institution);
- Fashion Design Services (1 institution);
- Janitorial Services (1 institution);
- Nursery Management/Horticulture (1 institution);
- Wastewater/Water Treatment Technologies (1 institution); and
- Web Development (1 institution).⁵³²

In FY 2016-17, inmates earned 1,799 vocational certificates and 1,349 industry certifications. In FY 2017-18, these numbers increased to 1,937 vocational certifications and 2,063 industry certifications.⁵³³

Veteran Advocacy

Military veterans make up an estimated 8 percent of the national prison population.⁵³⁴ Many veteran reentry needs, such as medical and mental health care, housing, and legal services, are the same as for other offenders. However, navigating available veteran benefit opportunities to meet reentry needs can be difficult without assistance. Generally, veteran advocacy and legal clinics are programs that provide legal services and assist veterans in obtaining available benefits. Such programs do not currently operate in Florida prisons.

Prison Entrepreneurship Program

Though not statutorily mandated, DOC partners with the following educational institutions to offer inmates job training and readiness skills:

- Stetson University;
- Florida State University;
- University of Central Florida; and
- University of West Florida.⁵³⁵

⁵³² Florida Department of Corrections, *Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017-2018*, *supra* note 2.

⁵³³ Florida Department of Corrections, Agency Analysis of 2018 SB 226-Revised, p. 2 (Oct. 25, 2017). Florida Department of Corrections, *Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017-2018*, *supra* note 2.

⁵³⁴ Office of the Public Defender, Ninth Judicial Circuit. *Incarcerated Veterans*. Salute Vets (2019), <http://www.salutevets.com/resources/incarcerated-veterans/> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵³⁵ Email from Jared Torres, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Corrections, RE: Data request, (Feb. 9, 2018).

Other states have recognized the need for career development programs, including entrepreneurship training that begins in prison and continues to offer support following release. In 2011, the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business implemented a prison entrepreneurship program at Virginia's Dillwyn Correctional Center, a medium-security prison housing more than 1,000 inmate.⁵³⁶ The program, taught by Darden students and volunteers, focuses on entrepreneurship skills, ethics, and business strategy.⁵³⁷ Students complete math testing, develop a personal business plan, and complete a final exam. Although Virginia's overall recidivism rate is about 23 percent, the recidivism rate of program participants is less than 3 percent.⁵³⁸

Transitional Employment Programs

DOC partners with Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises (PRIDE) to provide inmates with competency-based job training.⁵³⁹ PRIDE operates 41 centers providing training to inmates in 29 state correctional facilities. The program provides training in diversified market segments including agriculture, manufacturing, engineering, medical, services, printing, information technology, and office administration.⁵⁴⁰ PRIDE offers inmates vocational certifications that are recognized by, and have market value to, potential employers.⁵⁴¹

The PRIDE program begins over a year from an inmate's release date. A PRIDE transition specialist helps the participant prepare a transition plan which covers housing and preparing for a job search after release. The PRIDE transition specialist also helps the participant create a resume and develop a training certificate portfolio. PRIDE works with community partners to ensure that clothing, food, and housing needs are met when the participant is released from prison. The transition specialist then assists the participant in an employment search and serves as a job retention coach once the inmate is hired. As of June 30, 2018, Florida's recidivism rate was 24.5 percent; the recidivism rate for former PRIDE participants is 9.89 percent.⁵⁴²

Effect of the Bill - Inmate Reentry

CS/HB 7125 encourages offender reintegration into the community workforce. The bill requires DOC to provide each inmate with a copy of a comprehensive community reentry resource directory prior to the inmate's release. The directory must be organized by county and include the name, address, and telephone number of each reentry service provider, including a description of the services offered. The bill also requires DOC to establish a toll-free hotline, which provides information to released inmates seeking to obtain post-release referrals for community based reentry services.

The bill authorizes DOC to increase the number of transition assistance specialists in proportion to the number of inmates served at each of the major institutions and increase the number of employment specialists per judicial circuit based on the number of released inmates served under community

⁵³⁶ Carlos Santos, *Second Chances: Darden's Fairchild Launches Prison Entrepreneurship Program*, UVA Today (Jan. 4, 2013), <https://news.virginia.edu/content/second-chances-darden-s-fairchild-launches-prison-entrepreneurship-program> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵³⁷ *Id.*

⁵³⁸ Resilience Education, *Executive Summary*, (Mar. 2018),

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bc4fff016b6405451831f02/t/5bf22d0acd836636ea5b6cd0/1542597899378/1+ +2018+RE+Executive+Summary+%28March+2018%2C+UPDATED%29.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵³⁹ Florida Department of Corrections, *Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017-2018*, *supra* note 2.

⁵⁴⁰ PRIDE Enterprises, *Why PRIDE?* (2017), <https://www.pride-enterprises.org/WhyPride.aspx?page=WhyPride> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁴¹ *Id.*

⁵⁴² PRIDE Enterprises, *Annual Report 2017* (2017), https://www.pride-enterprises.org/Themes/PrideDefault/MediaContent/About/2017%20Annual%20Report/2017_Annual_Report.pdf (last visited May 10, 2019).

supervision upon receiving legislative appropriations. The bill requires transition assistance staff to provide information to inmates identifying job assignment credentialing or industry certifications for which the inmate is eligible. These certifications benefit the inmate following release from incarceration, as they may be provided to potential employers as a record of skills training and employment history.

The bill also requires DOC to allow nonprofit faith-based, business and professional, civic or community organizations to apply to be registered to provide reentry services. These services include, but are not limited to, providing information on housing and job placement, money management assistance, and counseling addressing substance abuse, mental health, and co-occurring conditions. DOC must adopt policies and procedures for screening, approving, and registering an organization that applies to be registered. DOC may deny registration if the organization does not meet such policies and procedures. Collaborating with nonprofit organizations may enable DOC to expand the availability of reentry resources without requiring additional funding.

The bill requires DOC to expand the use of a department-approved risk and needs assessment system to provide inmates with community-specific reentry service provider referrals before release. Such expanded use reduces barriers to locating available reentry services by assisting DOC staff in identifying an inmate's needs and locating corresponding services in an inmate's county of residence.

The bill also authorizes DOC to contract with Veteran Advocacy Clinics or Veteran Legal Clinics operated by colleges, universities or other nonprofit organizations, to assist qualified veteran inmates in applying for veteran's assistance benefits upon release. Addressing veteran reentry needs through advocacy and legal clinics helps veterans navigate available veteran benefit opportunities, which may lead to more stable housing, employment, and reduced recidivism.

The bill authorizes DOC to develop a Prison Entrepreneurship Program, to include 180 days of in prison education. If the program is implemented, the curriculum must include a component on developing a business plan, procedures for graduation and certification of successful student inmates, and at least 90 days of transitional and post-release continuing education services. The bill also encourages the use of transitional employment programs. The bill authorizes DOC to enter into agreements with public or private community colleges, junior colleges, colleges, universities, other nonprofit entities, or other authorized providers under s. 1002.45(1)(a)1., F.S.,⁵⁴³ to implement the program. Similar prison entrepreneurship programs have significantly reduced recidivism rates among participants.

The bill also authorizes the Correctional Education Program to work with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forestry Service Division, and the Division of State Fire Marshal to develop a correctional program to train and certify inmates as firefighters. The program should include certification of inmates as state forest staff trained to help protect homes, forestland, and natural resources from wildfires throughout the state.

Finally, the bill creates s. 1009.02, F.S., creating eligibility for a returning citizen to be awarded any scholarship, grant, or other aid for higher education or vocational training under ch. 1009, F.S., as long as he or she is otherwise qualified for the award and has completed all terms of a sentence for a criminal conviction. To complete all terms of a sentence, a person must be released from incarceration, terminated from any period of supervision, and have fulfilled all outstanding financial obligations ordered by the court as part of the sentence.

⁵⁴³ "Approved provider" means a provider that is approved by the Department of Education under s. 1002.45(2), F.S., the Florida Virtual School, a franchise of the Florida Virtual School, or a Florida College System institution.

Prison Industry Programs

Background

Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises

The Florida Legislature created Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises, Inc. (PRIDE) in 1981, as a private, non-profit inmate training company operating general manufacturing and services facilities.⁵⁴⁴ PRIDE currently operates 41 centers providing job training to inmates in 29 state correctional institutions. The program provides training in diversified market segments including agriculture, manufacturing, engineering, medical services, printing, information technology, and office administration.⁵⁴⁵

Sale of Goods and Services

PRIDE sells over 3,000 products and services including:

- Office and dormitory furniture;
- Cleaning supplies;
- Food service products;
- Indoor and outdoor signage;
- Bedding supplies;
- Agricultural commodities;
- Specialty clothing; and
- Footwear.⁵⁴⁶

PRIDE may sell an item or service it manufactures, grows, or produces to:

- A U.S. governmental or tax-supported entity⁵⁴⁷ or a U.S. not-for-profit company;
- A Florida private company or individual, provided that the good will not be transported from Florida for resale;
- A company, individual, or governmental entity of a foreign country provided there are no restrictions on the import of an inmate-manufactured good; and
- A company or individual located outside of Florida.⁵⁴⁸

PRIDE may sell inmate goods or services to a private business if:

- Such goods or services are produced or provided under PRIDE's direct supervision; and
- PRIDE's sale of such goods or services does not unreasonably compete with other Florida businesses.⁵⁴⁹

⁵⁴⁴ PRIDE Enterprises, *History of Pride* (2019), <https://www.pride-enterprises.org/content.aspx?page=HistoryOfPride> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁴⁵ PRIDE Enterprises, *Why PRIDE?* (2017), <https://www.pride-enterprises.org/WhyPride.aspx?page=WhyPride> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁴⁶ PRIDE Enterprises, *Products and Services* (2019), <https://www.pride-enterprises.org/category.aspx?zcid=112> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁴⁷ A governmental or tax-supported entity may include a city, county, school, or library. PRIDE Enterprises, *Eligible Customer* (2019) <https://www.pride-enterprises.org/content.aspx?page=EligibleCustomer> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁴⁸ The manufacture of goods that enter into interstate commerce must be compliant with the federal statutes relating to Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) Certification Program. Congress created the PIE Certification Program in 1979 to encourage states and units of local government to establish employment opportunities for offenders that approximate private-sector work opportunities. The program exempts certified state and local departments of correction and other eligible entities from normal restrictions on the sale of offender-made goods in interstate commerce. S. 946.515(1), F.S.

⁵⁴⁹ S. 946.515(5), F.S.

A state agency may not purchase a similar product or service of comparable price and quality from a source other than PRIDE if:

- PRIDE certifies that the product is manufactured by, or the service is provided by, inmates; and
- The product or service:
 - Meets comparable performance specifications; and
 - Is a comparable price.⁵⁵⁰

PRIDE does not receive appropriated legislative funding and depends on the sale of its products and services to financially support the program.⁵⁵¹ Forty-one percent of PRIDE's total annual sales are sales to state government agencies.⁵⁵²

If PRIDE sells a product to a state agency, it must be produced in majority part by inmate labor unless:

- A product not made by an inmate is contractually allied to an inmate-made product; and
- The value of all contractually allied products does not exceed two percent of PRIDE's total annual sales.⁵⁵³

A contractually allied product is an item that is complimentary to an inmate-made product. For example, PRIDE manufactures modular furniture, but does not manufacture the complimentary lighting or light fixtures the modular furniture contains. Lighting and light fixtures are considered contractually allied products.⁵⁵⁴

Effect of the Bill- Prison Industry Programs

The bill repeals the provision limiting PRIDE from selling products not made by inmates to state agencies to two percent of total annual sales. Without a limit on contractually allied products, the bill allows PRIDE to make and sell a wider range of products with features not manufactured by inmates.

Probation and Community Control

Background

At sentencing for a criminal conviction, a judge may place an offender on probation or community control in lieu of or in addition to incarceration.⁵⁵⁵ Probation is a form of community supervision requiring specified contacts with a probation officer and other terms and conditions.⁵⁵⁶ Community control is a more intensive form of supervision involving an individualized program which restricts the offender's movement within the community, home, or residential placement.⁵⁵⁷ Several standard conditions of probation or community control apply automatically, including requirements to report to a probation officer as directed and to live without violating any law.⁵⁵⁸ The court may also impose special conditions, such as community service hours, regular drug or alcohol testing, no contact orders, and treatment programs.⁵⁵⁹ Failure to meet any condition of supervision is a violation of probation or community control (VOP).

⁵⁵⁰ PRIDE may submit products and services to the Department of Management Services for testing, analysis, and review relating to the quality and cost comparability. Ss. 287.042(1)(f) and 946.515(1), F.S.

⁵⁵¹ PRIDE Enterprises, *Pride Annual Report* (2018), <https://www.pride-enterprises.org/Themes/PrideDefault/MediaContent/About/2017%20Annual%20Report/2017%20Annual%20Report.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁵² *Id.*

⁵⁵³ S. 287.095, F.S.

⁵⁵⁴ Email from Jared Torres, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Corrections, FW: Pride (Mar. 11, 2019).

⁵⁵⁵ S. 948.01, F.S.

⁵⁵⁶ S. 948.001(8), F.S.

⁵⁵⁷ S. 948.001(3), F.S.

⁵⁵⁸ S. 948.03(1), F.S.

⁵⁵⁹ S. 948.03(2), F.S.

Court Resolutions to VOPs

A VOP may come before the court for resolution either by:

- Affidavit and issuance of a warrant or notice to appear,⁵⁶⁰ or
- A warrantless arrest by a law enforcement officer with knowledge that the offender is on supervision.⁵⁶¹

Generally, upon a finding that an offender violated probation or community control, the court may revoke, modify, or continue supervision.⁵⁶² If the court chooses to revoke, it may impose any sentence that was permissible at the offender's initial sentencing.⁵⁶³ Upon revocation of supervision, the court is bound by the sentencing guidelines under the Criminal Punishment Code.⁵⁶⁴ The sentencing guidelines provide a formula for computation of the lowest permissible prison sentence, based on a number of factors such as the offender's current and prior offenses. The court must make written findings, contemporaneous with sentencing for the revocation of supervision, to justify a downward departure and sentence an offender to less than the lowest permissible sentence.⁵⁶⁵

If an offender qualifies as a violent felony offender of special concern (VFOSC), the court must revoke supervision, unless it makes written findings that the VFOSC does not pose a danger to the community.⁵⁶⁶ A VFOSC is a person who is on felony supervision:

- Related to a qualifying offense⁵⁶⁷ committed on or after March 12, 2007.
- For any offense committed on or after March 12, 2007, and has previously been convicted of a qualifying offense.
- For any offense committed on or after March 12, 2007, and is found to have violated that supervision by committing a qualifying offense.
- And has previously been found by a court to be a habitual violent felony offender,⁵⁶⁸ three-time violent offender,⁵⁶⁹ or sexual predator,⁵⁷⁰ and has committed a qualifying offense on or after March 12, 2007.⁵⁷¹

VFOSC status also increases an offender's score under the sentencing guidelines, leading to a higher minimum permissible prison sentence.⁵⁷²

⁵⁶⁰ S. 948.06(1)(b), F.S.

⁵⁶¹ S. 948.06(1)(a), F.S.

⁵⁶² S. 948.06(2)(b), F.S.

⁵⁶³ *Id.*

⁵⁶⁴ S. 921.0022, F.S.

⁵⁶⁵ *State v. Roman*, 634 So.2d 291 (Fla. 1st DCA 1994).

⁵⁶⁶ S. 948.06(8)(e)2.b., F.S.

⁵⁶⁷ Section 948.06(8)(c), F.S., defines qualifying offense to include any of the following: kidnapping or attempted kidnapping, s. 787.01, F.S.; false imprisonment of a child under the age of 13, s. 787.02(3), F.S.; luring or enticing a child, s. 787.025(2)(b) or (b), F.S.; murder or attempted murder, s. 782.04, F.S.; attempted felony murder, s. 782.051, F.S.; manslaughter, s. 782.07, F.S.; aggravated battery or attempt, s. 784.045, F.S.; sexual battery or attempt, s. 794.011(2), (3), (4), or (8)(b) or (c), F.S.; lewd and lascivious battery or attempt, s. 800.04(4); lewd and lascivious molestation, s. 800.04(5)(b) or (c), F.S.; lewd and lascivious conduct, s. 800.04(6)(b), F.S.; lewd and lascivious exhibition, s. 800.04(7)(b); lewd and lascivious exhibition on computer, s. 847.0135(5)(b); robbery or attempt, s. 812.13, F.S.; carjacking or attempt, s. 812.133, F.S.; home invasion robbery or attempt, s. 812.135, F.S.; lewd and lascivious offense upon or in the presence of an elderly person or attempt, s. 825.1025, F.S.; sexual performance by a child or attempt, s. 827.071, F.S.; computer pornography, s. 847.0135(2) or (3), F.S.; transmission of child pornography, s. 847.0137, F.S.; selling or buying of minors, s. 847.0145, F.S.; poisoning food or water, s. 859.01, F.S.; abuse of a dead human body, s. 872.06, F.S.; any burglary offense that is a first or second degree felony, s. 810.02(2) or (3), F.S.; arson or attempt, s. 806.01(1), F.S.; aggravated assault, s. 784.021, F.S.; aggravated stalking, s. 784.048(3), (4), (5), or (7), F.S.; aircraft piracy, s. 860.16, F.S.; throwing a deadly missile, s. 790.161(2), (3), or (4), F.S.; and treason, s. 876.32, F.S.

⁵⁶⁸ S. 775.084(1)(b), F.S.

⁵⁶⁹ S. 775.084(1)(c), F.S.

⁵⁷⁰ S. 775.21, F.S.

⁵⁷¹ S. 946.06(8)(b), F.S.

⁵⁷² S. 921.0024, F.S.

Release Pending Disposition of a VOP

When a person is arrested for committing a crime, he or she is generally entitled to pretrial release on reasonable conditions under the Florida Constitution.⁵⁷³ However, a person taken into custody for a VOP does not have a constitutional right to release pending the disposition of the VOP.⁵⁷⁴ If the offender qualifies as a VFOSC, the court is prohibited from granting pretrial release.⁵⁷⁵ For other offenders, the court has discretion to grant or deny bail.⁵⁷⁶ A court must exercise this discretion on a case-by-case basis and may not adopt a policy of never granting pretrial release on a VOP; however, this discretionary power leads to many offenders being detained in county jail during the pendency of a VOP case.

Alternative Sanctioning Programs

Section 948.06(1)(h), F.S., authorizes the chief judge of each judicial circuit to establish an alternative sanctioning program (ASP), which allows DOC to enforce technical violations with court approval. A technical violation is any alleged VOP that is not a new felony offense, misdemeanor offense, or criminal traffic offense.⁵⁷⁷ In FY 2017-18, DOC investigated 47,693 technical violations and 25,301 substantive violations.⁵⁷⁸ Many of these violations resulted in the offender returning to some form of supervision or serving a county jail sentence.⁵⁷⁹

The ASP allows for alternative resolution of technical violations, ensuring a swift and certain response without initiating the court process or arresting and booking the offender. In establishing an ASP, the chief judge, in consultation with the state attorney, public defender, and DOC, determines which technical violations are eligible for alternative sanctioning, offender eligibility criteria, permissible sanctions, and the process for reporting technical violations through the ASP.⁵⁸⁰ Common ASP sanctions include increased reporting requirements, imposition or modification of a curfew, drug evaluation and treatment, and classes on topics including anger management, values, and parenting.⁵⁸¹ As of December 2018, two circuits had included short jail sentences⁵⁸² as a possible ASP sanction through administrative order.⁵⁸³

After receiving written notice of an alleged technical violation and disclosure of the evidence supporting the violation, an offender who is eligible for the ASP may either elect to participate in the program or waive participation.⁵⁸⁴ If the offender waives participation, the violation proceeds through the court resolution process.⁵⁸⁵ If the offender elects to participate, he or she must admit to the technical

⁵⁷³ Art. I, s. 14, Fla. Const. Exceptions include when a person is charged with a capital offense or offense punishable by life and the proof of guilt is evident or the presumption is great, or if no conditions can reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm.

⁵⁷⁴ *Bernhardt v. State*, 288 So. 2d 490, 497 (Fla. 1974).

⁵⁷⁵ S. 903.0351, F.S.

⁵⁷⁶ S. 948.06(2)(c), F.S.; Fla. R. Crim. P. 3.790(b).

⁵⁷⁷ S. 946.08(2)(h)1., F.S.

⁵⁷⁸ Florida Department of Corrections, *Number of Violations by Type, Violation Completed FY 2017-2018*, (January 2, 2019).

⁵⁷⁹ *Id.*

⁵⁸⁰ S. 948.06(1)(h)2., F.S.

⁵⁸¹ Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, Administrative Order No. 17-30-S (Jun. 28, 2017); Sixth Judicial Circuit, Administrative Order No. 2016-058 PA/PI-CIR (Sep. 9, 2016); Eighth Judicial Circuit, Administrative Order No. 4.16 (Jun. 10, 2016); Tenth Judicial Circuit, Administrative Order No. 2-79.0 (Jun. 27, 2016); Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, Administrative Order No. 16-17-B (Jun. 7, 2016).

⁵⁸² Other states have found that brief periods of incarceration in response to VOPs are as effective at curbing new violations as longer stays, when the sentence is swiftly-imposed and certain. Scott Taylor, President of the American Probation and Parole Association, *Summit on Effective Responses to Violations of Probation and Parole*, at 13-14, (Dec. 11, 2012); National Institute of Justice, *"Swift and Certain" Sanctions in Probation are Highly Effective: Evaluation of the HOPE Program*, <https://www.nij.gov/topics/corrections/community/drug-offenders/pages/hawaii-hope.aspx> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁵⁸³ Eighth Judicial Circuit, Administrative Order No. 4.16 (Jun. 10, 2016); Tenth Judicial Circuit, Administrative Order No. 2-79.0 (Jun. 27, 2016).

⁵⁸⁴ S. 948.06(1)(h)3., F.S.

⁵⁸⁵ S. 948.06(1)(h)3.a., F.S.

violation, agree to comply with the probation officer's recommended sanction, and agree to waive the right to:

- Be represented by counsel.
- Require the state to prove his or her guilt.
- Subpoena witnesses and present evidence to a judge in his or her defense.
- Confront and cross-examine witnesses.
- Receive a written statement from a factfinder as to the evidence relied on and the reasons for the sanction imposed.⁵⁸⁶

Prior to 2016, DOC developed and implemented the ASP in 12 counties within six judicial circuits.⁵⁸⁷ Section 948.06(1)(h), F.S., codified the ASP option when it was passed into law in 2016.⁵⁸⁸ As of November 2018, 49 of 67 counties have implemented an ASP with 3,521 total participants statewide.⁵⁸⁹

Termination of Supervision

Termination of supervision, whether by court order or scheduled expiration of the term, releases the offender from all supervision and liability to sentence on the underlying charge or charges.⁵⁹⁰ Prior to termination, the filing of a VOP affidavit with a warrant, notice to appear, or warrantless arrest tolls the term of supervision.⁵⁹¹ Once supervision terminates, the court is divested of jurisdiction over the offender.⁵⁹²

The court may discharge an offender from supervision at any time if the court is satisfied that doing so is in the best interests of justice and the welfare of society.⁵⁹³ DOC may recommend early termination of supervision to the court at any time before the scheduled termination date if the offender has:

- Performed satisfactorily;
- Not been found in violation of any terms or conditions of supervision; and
- Met all financial sanctions imposed by the court.⁵⁹⁴

Administrative Probation

Administrative probation is a form of nonreporting supervision available to low-risk offenders upon successful completion of half of their probationary term.⁵⁹⁵ Only DOC has the authority to transfer a probationer to administrative probation.⁵⁹⁶ DOC may develop procedures for transferring probationers to administrative probation.⁵⁹⁷ Certain offenders are ineligible for conversion to administrative probation, including those on probation for enumerated sexual offenses or offenses involving minors and those qualifying as sexual predators.⁵⁹⁸ In *State v. Nazario*, the Fourth District Court of Appeal explicitly held that a circuit court did not have the authority to impose administrative probation as a sentence because the definition of administrative probation specifies that it is only available upon transfer by DOC.⁵⁹⁹

⁵⁸⁶ S. 948.06(1)(h)3.b., F.S.

⁵⁸⁷ Florida Department of Corrections, Agency Analysis of 2016 House Bill 1149, p. 2 (Jan. 20, 2016).

⁵⁸⁸ Ch. 2016-100, Laws of Fla.

⁵⁸⁹ Email from Jared Torres, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Corrections, re: ASP updated numbers (Dec. 28, 2018).

⁵⁹⁰ S. 948.04(2), F.S.

⁵⁹¹ S. 948.06(1)(f), F.S.

⁵⁹² S. 948.04(2), F.S.; *State v. Futch*, 979 So. 2d 1215, 1216 (Fla. 3d DCA 2008).

⁵⁹³ S. 948.05, F.S.

⁵⁹⁴ S. 948.04(3), F.S.

⁵⁹⁵ S. 948.01(1), F.S.

⁵⁹⁶ *Id.*; *State v. Nazario*, 100 So. 3d 1246 (Fla. 4th DCA 2012).

⁵⁹⁷ S. 948.013(1), F.S.

⁵⁹⁸ S. 948.013(2), F.S.

⁵⁹⁹ *Nazario*, 100 So. 3d at 1246.

Graduated Incentives

DOC uses a system of incentives to reward offenders for positive behavior and compliance with the terms of supervision. These incentives include:

- Allowing certain eligible offenders to report by mail and phone in lieu of having to report in person to the probation office.
- Recommending reduction of supervision type to the court.
- Recommending reduced reporting to the court.
- Recommending early termination of supervision to the court.⁶⁰⁰

DOC reports successful outcomes from this strategy, motivating offenders to both comply with the terms of supervision and complete all requirements ahead of schedule.⁶⁰¹

Effect of the Bill - Probation and Community Control

Alternative Sanctioning Program

The bill creates a statewide ASP, identifying eligible offenders, eligible violations, and permissible sanctions. Eligible violations are classified as either low- or moderate-risk.

Low-risk violations only apply to probationers, not offenders on community control, and include:

- A positive drug or alcohol test result;
- Failure to report to the probation office;
- Failure to report a change in address or other required information;
- Failure to attend a required class, treatment or counseling session, or meeting;
- Failure to submit to a drug or alcohol test;
- Violation of curfew;
- Failure to meet a monthly quota for any required probation condition, including making restitution payments, paying court costs, and completing community service hours;
- Leaving the county without permission;
- Failure to report a change in employment;
- Associating with people engaged in criminal activity; or
- Any other violation as determined by administrative order of the chief judge of the circuit.

Moderate-risk violations include:

- Any violation classified as low-risk when committed by an offender on community control;
- Failure to remain at an approved residence by an offender on community control;
- A third low-risk violation by a probationer; or
- Any other violation as determined by administrative order of the chief judge of the circuit.

The permissible sanctions correspond to the violation risk level. A probation officer may offer one or more of the following in response to a low-risk violation:

- Up to five days in the county jail;
- Up to 50 additional community service hours;
- Counseling or treatment;
- Support group attendance;
- Drug testing;
- Loss of travel or other privileges;

⁶⁰⁰ Florida Department of Corrections, *Community Corrections Strategies To Increase Offender Success and Reduce Recidivism* (December 2017).

⁶⁰¹ *Id.*

- Curfew for up to 30 days;
- House arrest for up to 30 days; or
- Any other sanction as determined by administrative order by the chief judge of the circuit.

The permissible sanctions for a moderate-risk violation include all sanctions available for a low-risk violation and:

- Up to 21 days in the county jail;
- Curfew for up to 90 days;
- House arrest for up to 90 days;
- Electronic monitoring for up to 90 days;
- Residential treatment for up to 90 days; or
- Any other sanction as determined by administrative order by the chief judge of the circuit.

The bill disqualifies offenders from alternative sanctioning under any of the following circumstances:

- The offender is a violent felony offender of special concern;
- The violation is a felony, misdemeanor, or criminal traffic offense;
- The violation is absconding;
- The violation is of a stay-away order or no-contact order;
- The violation is not identified as low- or moderate-risk by statute or administrative order;
- The offender has a prior moderate-risk level violation during the same term of supervision;
- The offender has three prior low-risk level violations during the same term of supervision;
- The term of probation is scheduled to terminate in less than 90 days; or
- The terms of the sentence prohibit alternative sanctioning.

The bill allows individual judicial circuits to add other eligible violations or permissible sanctions to the ASP so as to best meet local needs. A court may also disqualify a person from the ASP when initially sentencing him or her to probation.

As in current law, the bill allows an eligible offender to participate in the ASP or waive participation and proceed to a court resolution of the VOP. If the offender elects to participate, he or she must admit to the technical violation, agree to comply with the probation officer's recommended sanction, and agree to waive the right to:

- Be represented by counsel.
- Require the state to prove his or her guilt.
- Subpoena witnesses and present evidence to a judge in his or her defense.
- Confront and cross-examine witnesses.
- Receive a written statement from a factfinder as to the evidence relied on and the reasons for the sanction imposed.

The ASP is voluntary, and the offender may withdraw from participation at any time. Successful completion of an ASP does not impact an offender's withheld adjudication. If the offender withdraws or fails to complete a sanction within either 90 days or a timeframe determined in the agreed-upon sanction, the original VOP proceeds to the court resolution process.

Mandatory Modification of Probation and Jail Cap

Unless waived by a defendant, the bill requires a court to modify or continue, rather than revoke, a probationary term, for a first-time, low-risk technical violation. Subject to an exception for a probationer who has substantially completed his or her probationary term, the bill requires modification of probation under the following circumstances:

- The term of supervision is probation, rather than community control.

- The probationer does not qualify as a violent felony offender of special concern.
- The violation is a low-risk technical violation.
- The court has not previously found the probationer in violation of probation during the current term of supervision.

An eligible probationer who has successfully completed a sanction through the ASP is entitled to mandatory modification or continuation of probation upon his or her first referral to the court for resolution of a filed VOP affidavit.

The bill caps the amount of jail time that a court may order for a first-time, low-risk technical violator. If modifying probation as required by the bill, a court may only impose a term of incarceration of up to 90 days as a special condition of probation. If, however, a first-time, low-risk technical violator has substantially completed his or her term of probation and has 90 days of supervision or fewer remaining on his or her sentence, a court may revoke rather than modify the probationary term. Upon revoking in this circumstance, a court may only sentence the probationer to a maximum of 90 days in county jail. This provision supersedes the sentencing requirements of the Criminal Punishment Code.

The bill allows a court to grant a probationer credit for only time served in the county jail since his or her most recent arrest for a violation of probation when imposing a capped jail sentence. Normally, a court must give a defendant all credit for time served in a case. The bill ensures that a probationer may receive a sentence of up to 90 days in jail upon a first-time, low-risk technical violation, in addition to any previously served credit. However, the court may not exceed the statutory maximum sentence.

Administrative Probation

The bill amends the definition of administrative probation to allow a court to order this form of supervision. By changing the definition, the bill allows a court to sentence a person to administrative probation initially or to convert another form of supervision to administrative probation upon an offender's motion. DOC retains its current authority to transfer a qualifying probationer to administrative probation.

Mandatory Early Termination

The bill requires the court to either early terminate the probationary term or convert the remainder of the term to administrative probation under the following circumstances:

- The probationer successfully completes all conditions of probation;
- The probationer completes at least half of the term of probation;
- The court has not found the probationer in violation of probation at any point during the current supervisory term;
- Early termination was not excluded as part of a negotiated sentence; and
- The probationer is not a violent felony offender of special concern under s. 948.06, F.S.

The court is not required to early terminate or convert to administrative probation an otherwise eligible case if it makes written findings that continued reporting probation is necessary to protect the community or the interests of justice.

Graduated Incentives

The bill codifies existing DOC practice by requiring DOC to implement a system of graduated incentives to promote positive compliance with the terms of supervision and prioritize the highest levels of supervision for offenders presenting the greatest risk of recidivism. The bill specifically authorizes DOC to offer the following incentives to a compliant offender without leave of court:

- Up to 25 percent reduction of required community service hours;
- Waiver of supervision fees;
- Reduction in frequency of reporting;
- Permission to report by mail or phone; or
- Transfer of an eligible offender to administrative probation.

DOC may continue to incentivize positive behavior by offering recommendations to the court, including recommending:

- Permission to travel;
- Reduction of supervision type;
- Modification or cessation of curfew;
- Reduction or cessation of substance abuse testing; or
- Early termination of probation.

Veterinarian Reporting of Animal Cruelty

Background

The Legislature has determined that minimum requirements regarding the safe practice of veterinary medicine are necessary to protect public health and safety.⁶⁰² The Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) implements the provisions of ch. 474, F.S., relating to veterinary medical practice.⁶⁰³

A veterinarian (vet) is a health care practitioner licensed by the Board to practice veterinary medicine in Florida⁶⁰⁴ and is subject to disciplinary action from the Board for a violation of the veterinary practice act.⁶⁰⁵ The practice of “veterinary medicine” involves diagnosing medical conditions of animals, prescribing or administering medicine and treatment to animals for the prevention, cure, or relief of a wound, fracture, bodily injury, or disease, or holding oneself out as performing any of these functions.⁶⁰⁶

A veterinary “patient” is an animal on which a vet practices veterinary medicine.⁶⁰⁷ A “veterinarian/client/patient relationship” is one in which a vet assumes responsibility for making medical judgments about an animal’s health and its need for medical treatment.⁶⁰⁸

Animal Cruelty

The offense of animal cruelty is a first degree misdemeanor⁶⁰⁹ and includes:

- Overloading, overdriving, or tormenting any animal;
- Depriving any animal of necessary sustenance or shelter;
- Unnecessarily mutilating any animal;
- Killing any animal; or
- Carrying any animal, on a vehicle or otherwise, in a cruel or inhumane manner.⁶¹⁰

⁶⁰² S. 474.201, F.S.

⁶⁰³ Ss. 474.204 through 474.2125, F.S., concerning the powers and duties of the board.

⁶⁰⁴ S. 474.202(1), F.S.

⁶⁰⁵ Ss. 474.213 and 474.214, F.S.

⁶⁰⁶ S. 474.202(9), F.S. Also included is the determination of the health, fitness, or soundness of an animal, and the performance of any manual procedure for the diagnosis or treatment of pregnancy or fertility or infertility of animals.

⁶⁰⁷ S. 474.202(8), F.S.

⁶⁰⁸ S. 474.202(12), F.S.

⁶⁰⁹ A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in county jail and a \$1,000 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

⁶¹⁰ S. 828.12(1), F.S.

A person commits aggravated animal cruelty, a third degree felony,⁶¹¹ by intentionally committing an act on an animal – or failing to act if the person owns and has custody and control of the animal – and such action or omission results in:

- The cruel death of the animal, or
- The excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on an animal.⁶¹²

The offense of aggravated animal cruelty requires a \$2,500 fine and psychological testing or anger management for a first conviction,⁶¹³ and a \$5,000 fine and six months of incarceration for a second or subsequent conviction.⁶¹⁴ A person convicted for a second or subsequent offense of aggravated animal cruelty is ineligible for any form of early release, including gain time.⁶¹⁵

According to the Humane Society of the United States, animal cruelty is a serious problem in the United States, resulting in abuse to thousands of dogs and cats each year.⁶¹⁶ There are approximately 70 million pet dogs and 74.1 million pet cats in the U.S., and all 50 states have felony provisions for serious abuse of dogs and cats. The FBI tracks these crimes via the National Incident-Based Reporting System.⁶¹⁷

Veterinary Reporting of Animal Cruelty

Section 474.2165(4), F.S., of the Veterinary Medical Practice Act (VMPA)⁶¹⁸ prohibits a vet from furnishing medical records to or discussing the medical condition of a patient with any person other than a client, a client's legal representative or another vet involved in the care or treatment of the patient, except with the client's written authorization. Such records may be furnished without written authorization only as follows:

- To the entity that procured or furnished the examination or treatment, with the client's consent;
- In any civil or criminal action, upon the issuance of a subpoena only and with notice to the client; and
- For statistical and scientific research, if the identity of the client is protected.

A vet violating these provisions may be disciplined by the Board. The VMPA also prohibits a vet from reporting or discussing a patient's condition without a subpoena and notice to the client.

Section 828.12, F.S., of Florida's animal cruelty laws protect a vet for any decisions made or services rendered relating to animal cruelty. A vet is immune from criminal or civil liability for decisions made or services rendered relating to animal cruelty laws and is immune from civil liability for his or her part in an investigation of cruelty to animals.

The VMPA and animal cruelty laws contradict each other regarding the immunity provided to vets; at least one trial court has excluded evidence obtained from a vet based on this conflict, but was overturned on appeal.⁶¹⁹

⁶¹¹ A third degree felony is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Ss. 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

⁶¹² S. 828.12(2), F.S.

⁶¹³ S. 828.12(2)(a), F.S.

⁶¹⁴ S. 828.12(2)(b), F.S.

⁶¹⁵ *Id.*

⁶¹⁶ Humane Society of the United States, Animal Cruelty Facts and Stats, <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/animal-cruelty-facts-and-stats> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁶¹⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Tracking Animal Cruelty, <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/-tracking-animal-cruelty> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁶¹⁸ S. 474.201, F.S.

⁶¹⁹ *State v. Milewski*, 194 So. 3d 376 (Fla. 3rd DCA 2016). (Statements made by treating veterinarian and necropsy report regarding the abuse of a puppy were not unlawfully obtained because the statements were voluntarily made in a context that did not invoke the possibility of illegal police action).

Vets are treated differently from other health care providers authorized to report acts of violence and abuse. Specifically, other health care providers may disclose protected health information to public health authorities or other authorized government authorities regarding child abuse or neglect. Healthcare providers may also report protected health information to specified authorities in abuse situations other than those involving child abuse and neglect.⁶²⁰

Effect of the Bill - Veterinary Reporting of Animal Cruelty

The bill authorizes a vet to report suspected criminal violations without notice to or authorization from a client, to a law enforcement officer, an animal control officer, or an approved animal cruelty investigator; however, if the suspected violation occurs on a commercial food-producing animal operation on land classified as agricultural⁶²¹ under s. 193.461, F.S., the vet must provide notice to a client or a client's legal representative prior to reporting the suspected violation. The bill prohibits the report from including written medical records except upon the issuance of a court order.

Attorney Fees in Injunction Proceedings

Background

Protective Injunctions

Protective injunctions are available under Florida law for victims of the following forms of violence:

- Domestic violence,⁶²²
- Repeat violence,⁶²³
- Sexual violence,⁶²⁴
- Dating violence,⁶²⁵ and
- Stalking.⁶²⁶

A protective injunction may prohibit a person from:

- Going to or being within 500 feet of the petitioner's residence, school, place of employment, or other specified place;
- Committing an act of violence against the petitioner;
- Telephoning, contacting, or otherwise communicating with the petitioner; and
- Knowingly and intentionally coming within 100 feet of the petitioner's motor vehicle.

A court may also require a respondent to surrender a firearm, vacate a shared dwelling with the petitioner, or complete a batterer's intervention program.⁶²⁷ Violation of a protective injunction is a first degree misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.⁶²⁸

⁶²⁰ 45 C.F.R. §164.512.

⁶²¹ Subject to the specified restrictions, only lands that are used primarily for bona fide agricultural purposes qualify as agricultural. The term "bona fide agricultural purposes" means good faith commercial agricultural use of the land. S. 193.461(3)(b), F.S.

⁶²² S. 741.30, F.S.

⁶²³ S. 784.046, F.S.

⁶²⁴ *Id.*

⁶²⁵ *Id.*

⁶²⁶ S. 784.0485, F.S.

⁶²⁷ *Id.*; S. 741.30, F.S.

⁶²⁸ Ss. 741.31, 775.082, 775.083, 784.047, and 784.0487, F.S.

A petitioner for a protective injunction must allege in a sworn petition that:

- He or she is a victim of domestic violence; repeat, sexual, or dating violence; or stalking; or
- In the case of a petition for a domestic violence injunction, he or she has reasonable cause to believe he or she is in imminent danger of such violence.⁶²⁹

As soon as possible following the filing of the petition, a court must set a hearing to determine whether an immediate and present danger of the violence alleged exists.⁶³⁰ Upon finding an immediate and present danger, the court may grant an ex parte temporary injunction for 15 days.⁶³¹ A court must then set a hearing with notice to the respondent, and upon such hearing with notice, may grant protective injunctive relief as it deems proper.⁶³²

Attorney Fees

A court must award a reasonable attorney fee to be paid by the losing party and the losing party's attorney on any claim or defense during a civil proceeding or action if the court finds that the losing party or losing party's attorney knew or should have known that a claim:

- Was not supported by the material facts necessary to establish the claim or defense; or
- Would not be supported by the application of then-existing law to those material facts.⁶³³

Florida law prohibits attorney fee awards stemming from domestic violence injunction proceedings; however, there is no such explicit prohibition for repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence, or stalking injunction proceedings. In *Lopez v. Hall*, the Florida Supreme Court held that an award of attorney's fees was permissible in dating, repeat, and sexual violence injunction proceedings, as they were not explicitly prohibited by statute.⁶³⁴

Effect of the Bill - Attorney Fees

The bill prohibits the award of attorney fees under s. 57.105, F.S., in injunction proceedings for domestic violence, repeat violence, dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking, unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that, with regard to a material matter,⁶³⁵ either the:

- Petitioner knowingly made a false statement or allegation in the petition; or
- Respondent knowingly made a false statement or allegation in an asserted defense.

Carrying a Concealed Firearm

Background

The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA)⁶³⁶ allows a "qualified law enforcement officer" and a "qualified retired or separated law enforcement officer" to carry a concealed firearm in any state, subject to certain exceptions.⁶³⁷

⁶²⁹ Ss. 741.30(1)(a), 784.046, and 784.0485, F.S.

⁶³⁰ Ss. 741.30(5)(a), 784.046, and 784.0485, F.S.

⁶³¹ *Id.*

⁶³² Ss. 741.30(6)(a), 784.046, and 784.0485, F.S.

⁶³³ S. 57.105, F.S.

⁶³⁴ 233 So. 3d 451 (Fla. 2018).

⁶³⁵ A "material matter" is any subject, regardless of its admissibility under the rules of evidence, which could affect the course or outcome of the proceeding. Whether a matter is material in a given factual situation is a question of law. S. 837.011(3), F.S.

⁶³⁶ 18 U.S.C. § 926B and 18 U.S.C. § 926C.

⁶³⁷ LEOSA does not supersede any state laws that allow a private person or entity to prohibit a firearm on private property or laws which prohibit or restrict possession of firearms on state or local government property. 18 U.S.C. § 926B(b) and 18 U.S.C. § 926C(b). LEOSA does not preempt the federal Gun-Free School Zone Act, which prohibits a person from carrying a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school unless the person is licensed by the state in which the school is located. 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(25).

To be a “qualified law enforcement officer,” a person must:⁶³⁸

- Be authorized to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or incarceration of any person for a violation of law;
- Possess statutory arrest powers;
- Be authorized by a law enforcement agency to carry a firearm;
- Not be the subject of disciplinary action which could result in a suspension or revocation of his or her police powers;
- Meet standards established by the law enforcement agency to carry a firearm;
- Not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and
- Not be prohibited from owning a firearm by Federal law.

To be a “qualified retired or separated law enforcement officer,” a person must:⁶³⁹

- Be retired or separated from law enforcement service in good standing;
- Be previously authorized to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or incarceration of any person for a violation of law;
- Have been granted statutory arrest powers;
- Have served as a law enforcement officer for 10 years;
- Have met agency firearm standards within the past 12 months;
- Not have been found mentally unfit to own a firearm;
- Not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and
- Not be prohibited from owning a firearm by Federal law.

Several terms are not defined in LEOSA, leading to confusion and litigation over the qualification status of different categories of employees and uncertainty over the authority of a state to determine LEOSA eligibility.⁶⁴⁰ For example, LEOSA does not define whether an “employee” means any qualified employee or just full-time qualified employees. LEOSA also does not define the extent of arrest powers necessary to trigger LEOSA privileges.

Effect of the Bill - Carrying a Concealed Firearm

The bill provides any person who holds an active certification from the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) and is employed as a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary law enforcement or correctional officer meets the definition of a qualified law enforcement officer for purposes of LEOSA. The bill provides a person who held an active certification from CJSTC while employed as a full-time, part-time, or auxiliary law enforcement or correctional officer and separated from employment consistent with the provisions in LEOSA meets the definition of a qualified retired law enforcement officer.

⁶³⁸ 18 U.S.C. § 926B(c).

⁶³⁹ 18 U.S.C. § 926C(c).

⁶⁴⁰ *Heinrich v. Ill. Law Enforcement Training and Standards Bd.*, 306 F.Supp.3d 1049 (N.D. Ill. 2018) (LEOSA only applies to qualified or qualified retired law enforcement officers who have an agency issued identification card. States may limit identification cards to certain classes of officers); *Burban v. City of Neptune Beach*, 2018 WL 1493177 (states may limit which law enforcement officers qualify under LEOSA); *Duberry v. Dist. Of Columbia*, 824 F.3d 1046 (D.C. Cir. 2016) (corrections officers had sufficient arrest powers to qualify under LEOSA); *Thorne v. U.S.*, (private contractor with some law enforcement powers did not qualify as an employee for purposes of LEOSA).

Criminal Punishment Code

Background

The Criminal Punishment Code (Code) applies to all felony offenses, except capital felonies, committed on or after October 1, 1998.⁶⁴¹ Noncapital felonies sentenced under the Code receive an offense severity level ranking (Levels 1-10), either by being specifically listed in the offense severity ranking chart⁶⁴² or by default.⁶⁴³ Judges must use the Code worksheet to compute a sentence score for each felony offender.⁶⁴⁴

Sentence points are assigned and accrue based on the level ranking assigned to the primary offense, additional offenses and prior offenses.⁶⁴⁵ Sentence points increase as the offense severity level increases from Level 1 (least severe) to Level 10 (most severe). Sentence points are added for victim injury, and increased based on the type of injury and severity.⁶⁴⁶ Sentence points may also be added or multiplied for other factors including possession of a firearm or the commission of certain offenses, such as drug trafficking.⁶⁴⁷ If an offense is unlisted on the offense severity ranking chart, the Code provides a ranking based on felony level.⁶⁴⁸ For example, an unranked third degree felony is a level one offense.⁶⁴⁹

If total sentence points equal or are less than 44 points, the lowest permissible sentence is any nonstate prison sanction, unless the court determines that a prison sentence is appropriate. If total sentence points exceed 44 points, the lowest permissible sentence in prison months is calculated by subtracting 28 points from the total sentence points and decreasing the remaining total by 25 percent.⁶⁵⁰ Absent mitigation,⁶⁵¹ the permissible range under the Code is generally the lowest permissible sentence scored up to and including the maximum penalty provided under s. 775.082, F.S.⁶⁵²

Effect of the Bill - Criminal Punishment Code

The bill:

- Confirms the offense severity ranking chart to changes made by the bill;
- Ranks the new offense of possession or introduction of a cellular telephone or a portable communication device into a county detention facility as a level four offense.
- Reclassifies the offense of introducing an intoxicating drug into a county detention facility from a level six to a level four offense.
- Ranks the new offense of conspiring to commit retail theft with the intent to sell as a level three offense.

The bill creates the Task Force on the Criminal Punishment Code, adjunct to the Department of Legal Affairs, for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding sentencing

⁶⁴¹ S. 921.002, F.S.

⁶⁴² S. 921.0022, F.S.

⁶⁴³ S. 921.0023, F.S., addresses ranking unlisted felony offenses. For example, an unlisted felony of the third degree is ranked within offense level 1.

⁶⁴⁴ S. 921.0024, F.S.

⁶⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁴⁸ S. 921.0023, F.S.

⁶⁴⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁵⁰ S. 921.0022(2), F.S.

⁶⁵¹ The court may "mitigate" or "depart downward" from the scored lowest permissible sentence if the court finds a mitigating circumstance. Section 921.0026, F.S., provides a list of mitigating circumstances.

⁶⁵² S. 921.0022(2), F.S.

for and ranking of noncapital felony offenses under the Code. The Task Force is composed of the following members:

- The Attorney General, or her designee, serving as chair.
- The Secretary of DOC, or his designee.
- The Secretary of DJJ, or her designee.
- Two members appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom must be a public defender.
- Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom must be a state attorney.
- Two members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, one of whom must be a circuit judge currently assigned to a felony division.
- Six members appointed by the Governor, two of whom must be professors at a Florida College System Institution or state university.

The task force is encouraged to consider input from all stakeholders involved in the criminal justice system and must submit its report to the Governor and the Legislature by June 30, 2020. At a minimum, the report must include:

- Issues considered by the task force;
- Any recommendations for legislative changes; and
- An analysis of the expected impact of such recommendation if enacted by the Legislature.

The task force dissolves after submitting its report.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

Driver Licenses

Last year the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) reviewed the fiscal impact of the loss of reinstatement fees based on the removal of certain non-driving-related driver license sanctions.⁶⁵³ It estimated the removal of suspension or revocation penalties for offenses of truancy, worthless check, theft, providing alcohol to a minor, minor in possession or attempting to purchase alcohol or tobacco, minor unlawful possession of a firearm, and graffiti would reduce state and local government revenues by \$1.5 million annually, affecting the General Revenue Fund, Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, and local funds.⁶⁵⁴ CS/HB 7125 may have a slightly lower impact to such revenues, as it does not remove driver license suspension penalties for truancy or worthless check offenses.

Requiring clerks of courts to hold a Driver License Reinstatement Day may have an indeterminate, positive impact to state revenues. Individuals seeking to reinstate their driver license will be required to pay the \$45 or \$75 fee to reinstate their suspended or revoked driver license, respectively. It is unknown how many individuals will take advantage of the license reinstatement days who would not otherwise pay to have their licenses reinstated during the same fiscal year; therefore, the positive fiscal impact to state revenues is indeterminate. Additionally, to the extent that additional court fees are collected for reinstatements, there may be an indeterminate, positive fiscal impact to the State Attorney Trust Fund, Indigent Criminal Defense Trust Fund, and the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund.

⁶⁵³ Revenue Estimating Conference, HB 1095 (2018) – Clerk of Court Related Suspensions (Jan. 12, 2018).

⁶⁵⁴ *Id.*

2. Expenditures:

Theft Offenses

The Criminal Justice Impact Conference (CJIC) determined the provisions in the bill relating to theft offenses will reduce the need for prison beds by a significant amount.⁶⁵⁵ Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018 there were 14,204 offenders sentenced under ss. 812.014(2)(c)(1), 812.014(2)(d), 812.014(3)(c), 812.015(8), 212.15, and 509.151, F.S., with 1,643 of these offenders sentenced to prison. The number of offenders that currently fall within the proposed changes to the theft thresholds in this bill cannot be differentiated from the current thresholds.⁶⁵⁶

Other Offenses with Monetary Thresholds

On April 15, 2019, the CJIC determined the revisions to the following offenses will each result in an insignificant reduction in the need for prison beds:

- Theft of state funds,
- Obtaining food or lodging with intent to defraud, and
- Selling used motor vehicle goods as new.

Criminal Justice Data Transparency

While criminal justice entities already collect the majority of the information required under the bill, the bill may have a significant, but indeterminate, fiscal impact on those criminal justice entities that are required to collect additional data elements and transmit that information to the FDLE. The fiscal impact will vary by entity and may require additional staff and information technology resources.

CS/HB 7125 requires the FDLE to procure:

- A uniform arrest affidavit,
- A uniform criminal charge and disposition statute crosswalk table, and
- A uniform criminal disposition and sentencing statute crosswalk table by January 1, 2020, subject to appropriation.

The FDLE projects that the total cost to implement the Criminal Justice Transparency initiative, including the development of the uniform automated arrest form, is approximately \$9.4 million over the next three fiscal years, as follows:

- FY 2019-2020 – two positions and \$1,585,160;
- FY 2020-2021 – one position and \$5,581,191; and
- FY 2021-2022 - \$2,182,145.⁶⁵⁷

The General Appropriations Act for FY 2019-2020 provides two positions and approximately \$5.9 million of general revenue funds (\$0.2 million recurring, \$5.7 million nonrecurring) to address workload related to implementing the Criminal Justice Data Transparency initiative and procuring a Uniform Arrest Form.

Driver Licenses

The bill will increase the workload of DHSMV staff in order to facilitate the Driver License Reinstatement Days. The bill also requires the cooperation of the state attorney's office, public defender's office, and circuit courts, which would likely increase the workload of those offices. This workload is indeterminate, but expected to be minimal, and should be absorbed within existing resources.

⁶⁵⁵ A significant impact is a change of more than 25 prison beds.

⁶⁵⁶ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, *HB 589 – Theft Offenses*, February 27, 2019, <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/criminaljusticeimpact/HB589.pdf>, (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁶⁵⁷ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *Criminal Justice Data Transparency Budget Synopsis*.

Pretrial Drug Courts

The provisions in the bill relating to specialty courts have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state and local governments due to the unavailability of data needed to quantifiably establish the increase in judicial time and workload as a result of expanding specialty court eligibility. However, any increase in judicial time and workload is expected to be managed within existing resources.⁶⁵⁸ Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018, there were 8,377 offenders admitted to pretrial intervention. It is not known how many more eligible offenders there will be with the expansion of eligibility, so the number of offenders diverted from prison cannot be quantified.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing – Horse Meat Offenses

The bill amends s. 500.451, F.S., removing the minimum mandatory period of incarceration of one year for the unranked, 3rd degree felony for selling, transporting, distributing, purchasing, or possessing horse meat for human consumption that is not clearly stamped. Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018, no one was sentenced for horse meat offenses. The CJIC determined this provision will reduce the need for prison beds by an insignificant amount.⁶⁵⁹

Prison Releasee Reoffender

This bill amends s. 775.082, F.S., expanding the pool of offenders eligible for a mandatory minimum sentence for a “prison releasee reoffender.” Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018, there were 484 releasee reoffenders admitted to the Florida Department of Corrections. For potential reoffenders impacted by this language, in FY 17-18, there were roughly 570 offenders that were sentenced to time served and released before coming to prison. The CJIC determined this provision will increase the need for prison beds by an indeterminate amount.⁶⁶⁰

Drug Trafficking

The bill amends s. 893.135(1)(c)2, F.S., reducing the thresholds for trafficking in hydrocodone. Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018, there were 1,412 offenders sentenced for sale/manufacture/delivery of other Schedule I and II substances, with 569 offenders sentenced to prison. It is not known if incarceration rates and sentence length for hydrocodone is treated differently than other substances captured in this data, but an examination of overlaps in sentence points did show scenarios where similar point totals scored both higher and lower sentences when comparing sale/manufacture/delivery other Schedule I and II drugs to trafficking in hydrocodone. However, even if only the lower sentence length was applied to comparable hydrocodone trafficking offenses, there would not be a large enough number of offenders impacted to reach significance.⁶⁶¹ The CJIC determined these provisions will decrease the need for prison beds by an insignificant amount.⁶⁶²

Crime Stoppers Programs

The CJIC determined this provision creating a new criminal penalty will have a positive insignificant prison bed impact (an increase of 10 or fewer prison beds).

Community Court Program

The provisions in the bill relating to Community Court Programs will have an insignificant impact on state expenditures. The bill encourages each judicial circuit to establish a community court program, and establishes guidelines for the program. The circuits that choose to establish the program will be required to fund it with sources of funding other than the state for costs not assumed by the state pursuant to s. 29.004, F.S.

⁶⁵⁸ Office of the State Courts Administrator, *2019 Judicial Impact Statement – SB 910*, February 28, 2019.

⁶⁵⁹ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, HB 7125 – Public Safety, April 15, 2019.

⁶⁶⁰ *Id.*

⁶⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶⁶² *Id.*

Youthful Offender Sentencing

The CJIC determined the provision will have no impact on the need for prison beds.⁶⁶³

Victim Compensation Claims

Changes made by the bill extending the timeframe for filing and reporting deadlines for crime victim compensation claims are estimated to have an indeterminate, but likely significant, negative impact on the Crimes Compensation Trust Fund. However, this impact will likely be delayed because the extended timeframes apply prospectively. Additionally, the Department of Legal Affairs may have difficulty projecting funds needed to compensate victims due to the significant increase in potential applicants.

Direct Filing of Juvenile Offenders

The fiscal impact of removing mandatory direct filing of juvenile offenders is indeterminate. The bill may decrease the number of prison beds; however, DJJ may incur additional costs for cases resolved in the juvenile system that were previously subject to mandatory direct file. In general, the direct monetary costs to state government are higher for the services provided for each person under the DJJ rather than the DOC. In FY 2017-2018, 302 youths transferred to adult court met the criteria for direct file. Under the bill, these youths would still be eligible for discretionary direct file. It is unknown how the bill would affect the judicial decisions to direct file cases in the future.

Contractor Fraud

The CJIC determined this provision will have an indeterminate impact. Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018 there were 11,619 offenders sentenced under s. 812.014, F.S., with 1,397 of these offenders sentenced to prison. It is not known how many of these offenders were contractors. To the extent that the bill removes the specific intent element from construction fraud, it may increase prosecutions for construction fraud offenses. A preliminary review of these provisions estimates that the bill will increase or decrease the need for prison beds by an indeterminate amount. The DBPR indicates the provisions of the bill related to construction fraud will have no fiscal impact to the department.⁶⁶⁴

Liquor and Gambling Offenses

Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018, no one was sentenced for:

- Possessing a still or still apparatus,
- Owning or possessing a gallon or more of illegally made or manufactured liquor, or
- Keeping a gambling house.

The CJIC determined the provisions of the bill that reduce the penalties for these offenses will reduce the need for prison beds by an insignificant amount.⁶⁶⁵

Cyber Crimes

The bill expands the definition of cyberstalking as well as the description of offenses involving computers. These changes are estimated to have a positive indeterminate impact to prison beds (an unknown increase).⁶⁶⁶ The CJIC was unable to determine the number of offenders previously sentenced for cyberstalking from available data. Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018, nine offenders were

⁶⁶³ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, *HB 887 – Youthful Offenders*, February 27, 2019, <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/criminaljusticeimpact/HB887.pdf>

⁶⁶⁴ Email from Susan Datres, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, re: HB 7125 (April 15, 2019).

⁶⁶⁵ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, *HB 7125 – Public Safety*, April 15, 2019.

⁶⁶⁶ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, *HB 669 – Offenses Involving Computers*, <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/criminaljusticeimpact/HB669.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

convicted of a third degree felony for offenses involving computers under s. 815.06, F.S., however, no one received a prison sentence.⁶⁶⁷

Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition

Expanding the third degree felony for lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of a county detention facility employee is estimated to have a positive insignificant increase on prison beds (an increase of 10 or fewer).⁶⁶⁸ Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018, five offenders were sentenced under the current statute. Of those, two were sentenced to prison.⁶⁶⁹

Introduction of Contraband

The fiscal impact of provisions of the bill concerning the introduction of contraband are indeterminate.

Increasing the penalty for introduction of cell phones as well as contraband offenses committed by employees is estimated to have a positive insignificant impact on prison beds (an increase of 10 or fewer).⁶⁷⁰ However, reducing the severity of the penalty for certain contraband offenses from a third degree felony to a first degree misdemeanor is estimated to have a negative indeterminate impact on prison beds (an unknown decrease).⁶⁷¹ Per DOC, in FY 2017-2018, 163 offenders were sentenced under introducing contraband into or possessing contraband in a correctional facility. Of those, 53 were sentenced to prison.⁶⁷²

Sealing and Expunction of Criminal History Records

FDLE believes the costs to implement the seal and expunge provisions of the bill can be absorbed within existing resources and through the utilization of federal grant programs.⁶⁷³

Inmate Reentry

The provisions in the bill related to inmate reentry may increase expenditures for the DOC by an indeterminate amount. The bill requires the DOC to establish a toll free hotline to refer released inmates to reentry programs. This may require additional staffing resources, depending on the operating hours of the hotline. The bill does not currently specify operating hours for the hotline. If the hotline operates 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, the department estimates a staffing need of 3 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions at a cost of \$143,106. If the hotline operated eight hours and day and five days a week, the associated staffing costs could be managed within existing resources.

The DBPR indicates the provisions of the bill related to licensure will have no fiscal impact to the department.⁶⁷⁴

Probation and Community Control

The bill amends s. 948.06, F.S., restructuring the details of the alternative sanctioning program. DOC does not believe that this would significantly change the actual operations of the alternative

⁶⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁶⁸ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, CS/HB 599 – Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition, <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/criminaljusticeimpact/CSHB599.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁶⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁷⁰ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, CS/HB 41 – Correctional Facility Employees, <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/criminaljusticeimpact/CSHB41.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁶⁷¹ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, CS/HB 1029 – Detention Facilities, <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/criminaljusticeimpact/CSHB1029.pdf> (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁶⁷² *Id.*

⁶⁷³ Email from Ronald Draa, Director of External Affairs, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, re: PCB JDC 19-02 - Fiscal impact to FDLE (April 11, 2019).

⁶⁷⁴ Email from Susan Datres, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, re: HB 7125 (April 15, 2019).

sanctioning program.⁶⁷⁵ Impact from the changes on the Violation of Probation (VOP) caseload and the number of revocations is indeterminate at this time.⁶⁷⁶

Overall Prison Bed Impact

On April 15, 2019, the CJIC determined that the bill will decrease the need for prison beds by a significant amount.⁶⁷⁷

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

Driver Licenses

The Driver License Reinstatement Days required by the bill will likely result in an increased workload for county courts and Clerks of Court, and any other local government entities that participate in the driver license reinstatement days.

Direct Filing of Juvenile Offenders

Removing mandatory direct file of juvenile offenders may decrease the number of jail beds by keeping more children in the juvenile system; however, to that extent, the bill may have a negative fiscal impact on non-fiscally constrained counties required to reimburse the state for 50 percent of juvenile secure detention costs.

Criminal Justice Data Transparency

The bill may have an indeterminate impact on county detention facilities due to the data elements required to be reported to FDLE that have been added or modified by the bill.

Lewd and Lascivious Exhibition

The bill may have a positive insignificant impact on the number of county detention beds by creating a new felony crime. However, the bill may also have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on county governments by reducing liability for lawsuits alleging a sexually hostile work environment, as facilities will have an additional tool to deter sexually harassing inmate behavior.

Other Offenses

The following provisions of the bill will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local governments due to the creation or modification of criminal offenses, which may increase the need for county jail beds:

- Crime Stoppers privileged communication;
- Theft Offenses;
- Introduction of contraband; and
- Cyber Crimes.

⁶⁷⁵ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, *CS/HB 963 – Probation Violations*, April 8, 2019, <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/criminaljusticeimpact/CSHB963.pdf>, (last visited May 10, 2019).

⁶⁷⁶ Department of Corrections, *2019 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis – HB 963*, March 22, 2019.

⁶⁷⁷ Criminal Justice Impact Conference, *HB 7125 – Public Safety*, April 15, 2019.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The driver license provisions of the bill will help individuals with financially-based driver license revocations or suspensions reinstate their licenses.

The changes to review standards for occupational licensing will help individuals with certain criminal history records obtain occupational licenses.

The bill may prevent or reduce construction fraud and the misapplication of construction funds, ensuring more Florida consumers receive the improvements or homes they contract and pay for.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill includes a \$250,000 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Legal Affairs for the purpose of implementing the Criminal Punishment Code Task Force.

The following provisions of the bill have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state and local governments:

- Sexually Violent Predator Program – Criminal History Records Access
- Occupational Licensing - Review Standards
- Possession of a Counterfeit Instrument – Intent to Defraud Language
- Veterinarian Reporting of Animal Cruelty
- Carrying a Concealed Firearm – Qualified Law Enforcement Officers and Qualified Retired or Separated Law Enforcement Officers.

Crime Stoppers Programs

The bill allows the Department of Legal Affairs to reallocate 50 percent of unencumbered funds returned to the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund from a judicial circuit to other judicial circuits. This will likely have a positive impact on crime stopper organizations that could utilize funding in excess of what is available to them based on the amount of funds collected in their judicial circuit.

While the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund appears to have sufficient funds to accommodate changes made by the bill at this time, an increase in payouts for tips and expanded use of funds may negatively impact the trust fund over time, potentially impacting future Crime Stoppers grant funding.